



# The Inside Track

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Frequently asked questions, tech tips, & problem reports for users of Thoroughbred Software Products

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Volume 3 Issue 2

January 1996

## Thoroughbred *Basic*<sup>TM</sup>

**Q:** When I call 8INPUT from a *Basic* program to perform maintenance operations on multiple records, how do I tell it to clear the displayed data when the key changes?

**A:** Before you read your next key, set FUNC\$="C" and make a call to 8PRINT. The call line will read:

```
CALL "8PRINT",FUNC$,SCREEN$[ALL], FORMAT$,DATA,]SYSV$
```

**Q:** How do I find out who is running *Basic*, IDOL-IV<sup>TM</sup>, or OPENworkshop<sup>TM</sup> on my Novell or UNIX system?

**A:** In Novell, using the console "monitor screen" or using "FCONSOLE", see who has "b.exe" open. To see who is in IDOL-IV or OPENworkshop, check to see who has "IDDBD" open, using the same methods.

In UNIX, you can use the "fuser -u basic" and "fuser -u ./IDL4/IDDBD" commands to find out who is in *Basic* and IDOL-IV/ OPENworkshop respectfully.

**Q:** Why am I getting error 0s when opening more than 40 files in *Basic* on a Novell network?

**A:** When installing a Novell network system, the number of files you can open defaults to 40. To increase the number of files add "FILE HANDLES #" to the NetWare DOS Requestor section of the "NET.CFG" file. For example: To increase the number of files to 100 add the line "FILE HANDLES 100". This will allow you to open 100 files at a time.

**Q:** How can I get my UNIX login name from within *Basic*?

**A:** Enter the following: PRINT INF(3,2).

## IDOL-IV<sup>TM</sup>

**Q:** How do I find out what maintenance mode I am in from inside my Post Process script?

**A:** The answer is in the system format 'IDSV'. In your script you can do the following:

```
FORMAT INCLUDE #IDSV, OPT="NONE".
```

This will include the IDSV format into your program, where you can check #IDSV.PRE-POST-PROC-FLAGS. The value here will represent the maintenance mode you are in. The different values are explained in the FORMAT Message area.

- Q:** I am trying to do a CONNECT REPORT from a SCRIPT and am populating the SORT number in REPORT\$[5]. How come the report is not being printed in this sort order?
- A:** In order for this to work, you have to add a SORT BY SORT0 in your report. Once this has been added, the sort in REPORT\$[5] will be placed into the SORT BY SORT0 statement in the report.
- Q:** How do I print four labels across the page in *Report-IV*<sup>TM</sup>?
- A:** UTXRC002 is an example report showing how to print four labels across the page. It is included with every copy of *Report-IV*, along with several other reports. Reference the "UT" library.
- Q:** How do you execute a post-process of a field in an object view?
- A:** Put a "0, script-name, pass-value" in the post process of your field's format. The script that is used must be a P type script. The ENTER list that is used with this script is described in the Pre/Post Process help of 8INPUT. Help for 8INPUT can be accessed by running 8H and selecting "Release 8.n Help" and then "API Services".

### **Solution-IV**<sup>TM</sup>

- Q:** Why are my operators always going into the DEM company when entering *Solution-IV*?
- A:** You need to have TAPSTART as your entry program in your operator record. Access the operator record from menu IDMENU2, Operator Information.
- Q:** After updating my payroll, I realized that a few of the checks were wrong. How can I correct the existing checks?
- A:** In time sheet entry, reverse the check. Make the check type a reversal (R) and give it the proper check number to reverse. You have a lookup function available to you to help find the proper check.
- Q:** *Solution-IV* has flags in the employee master file for a statutory employee and deferred compensation. What are they used for?
- A:** A statutory employee is an underage employee. This is legal in certain industries and states. Deferred compensation is wages that do not get paid immediately, such as a 401k plan. The moneys are deferred into a special account and withheld. Both flags are only used to mark the corresponding boxes on the W-2 form.
- Q:** My General Ledger is based on a fiscal year and my Payroll is based on a calendar year. If I am closing out my General Ledger, am I going to lose any of my Payroll W2 information?
- A:** If you close out the year in General Ledger you will not lose any information from Payroll. Only the General Ledger files will be updated.

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# The Inside Track

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Frequently asked questions, tech tips, & problem reports for users of Thoroughbred Software Products

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Volume 3 Issue 3

February 1996

## Thoroughbred *Basic*<sup>TM</sup>

**Q:** How do I set up access to print devices in Thoroughbred *Basic* for Microsoft Windows?

**A:** Access to print devices can be accomplished in either **Raw** mode or **Spooled** mode for the Microsoft Windows Print Manager.

In **Raw** mode you bypass the Windows Print Manager and allow direct access to the print device. This is the typical method used in your existing UNIX applications. It requires printer tables to be defined in *Dictionary-IV*<sup>TM</sup> that recognize unique escape sequences for unique printers. To setup **Raw** mode you need to setup the Raw mode flag in the IPLINPUT.TXT file. For example: **DEV LP,4,,,,,LPT1**.

The **Spooled** Windows Print Manager mode is the preferred Windows print access method. The Print Manager mode can either be setup to run in **Standard** or **Pass-Through** mode. Both modes will spool all output to the Windows Print Manager. **Standard** mode uses a standard set of limited mnemonics that need to be defined in *Dictionary-IV*, while **Pass-Through** mode will use your existing *Dictionary-IV* printer tables. To activate the Windows Print Manager, you need to set the **Spooler** flag in the IPLINPUT.TXT file.

For example: **DEV LP,4,,,,1,,LPT1 (Pass-Through Mode)**

**DEV LP,4,,,,3,,LPT1 (Standard Mode)**

Using either **Pass-Through** or **Standard Mode** will send all LP output to the Windows Print Manager. Programs using escape sequences and mnemonics not recognized by the Print Manager will generate errors. When the Print Manager is active, you will be able to access Printer Setup by clicking the File option from the Menu Bar. **Spooled** printers will use the default font *Courier New* for text and *MS Line Draw* for graphics. *Basic* does not query the Windows Printer Drivers to determine supported fonts. If the font is not recognized, most printers will switch into Graphics mode and print individual pixels. Platforms that require Win32s should expect a blank page with spooled printers. To use a **Standard Spooled** printer, you will have to create a *Dictionary-IV* printer table. For more information on this option, see the "New Features" section in the *Thoroughbred Environment* for Windows Guide.

## IDOL-IV<sup>TM</sup>

**Q:** How can I get the first four characters of my CUST-ADDRESS field in my Script?

**A:** Because you cannot substring 4GL variables in *Script-IV*<sup>TM</sup>, the easiest way to accomplish this is to LET A\$ = CUST-ADDRESS and use A\$(1,4). Remember, 3GL variables do not have to be defined and the same rules apply to *Script* that apply to *Basic* when dealing with *Basic* variables.

**Q:** Is there an easy way to find the channel number that a printer is open on in a *Report-IV*<sup>TM</sup> report?

**A:** Yes, the printer channel number can be determined with a line of code placed on an I1nn line in the ENTRY SECTION or DC, CBnnC, STnnC, line in the REPORT SECTION or a line of code in a program called from within the report:

```
For example: LET U1$ = #IDSV.PRINTER-IDPUT0,
             LET U1 = UNT(U1$)
```

**Q:** What does my “IF” condition look like if I am trying to delete records in a view “<F8> commands” window based on an SQL date field?

**A:** The “IF” condition will look like the following:

```
DELETE IF DEC(DATA1)/10000>DTN(“010195”, “MMDDYY”)
```

In the example, DATA 1 is the date field in the format defined as a type 5 (SQL Date). This field needs to be converted to allow a proper check against a specified date using *Basic SQL*.

### **Solution-IV**<sup>TM</sup>

**Q:** Even though I defined a Form Feed in my CLOSE sequence in the IDOL-IV<sup>TM</sup> printer table, why are the General Ledger summaries on updated journals not form feeding?

**A:** The reason the updated GL summaries on updated journals are not form feeding is because the report includes a TAIUPDTI report that runs a program before the close mnemonic can be printed. Add T920 /PC=FF to TAIUPDTI to include a form feed on these reports.

**Q:** How do I drop ship an order in *Solution-IV* Purchase Order?

**A:** To drop ship an order modify the drop ship flag in the Purchase Order-Entry Header file. You can not edit this field directly, instead leave the ship-to warehouse field blank and enter an actual ship-to address. **NOTE:** If you want to drop ship an item not found in your inventory master file, make sure the ~NSTK~ product code is defined. To enter a non-stocked item in the Purchase Order lines, enter your non-stock item character (found in the IC parameters; default = “/”) then give the item a code and description.

**Q:** If I enter an order in Order Processing that requires a deposit, then Accounts Receivable will receive the deposit for the item, and in Accounts Receivable-Cash Receipts Entry, there will be a field for the credit card number. What *Solution-IV* report will this information print out on?

**A:** This information will print on the Order Processing-Open Deposit Report and the Accounts Receivable-Cash Receipts Journal.

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# The Inside Track

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Frequently asked questions, tech tips, & problem reports for users of Thoroughbred Software Products

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Volume 3 Issue 4

March 1996

## Thoroughbred *Basic*<sup>TM</sup>

- Q:** How can I find out who is running *Basic* or IDOL-IV<sup>TM</sup> on my system?
- A:** In Novell, using the console “monitor screen” or using “FCONSOLE”, see who has “b.exe” open. To see who is in IDOL-IV, check to see who has “IDDBD” open, using the same methods. In UNIX, you can use the “fuser -u basic” and “fuser -u ./IDL4/IDDBD” commands to find out who is in both *Basic* and IDOL-IV.
- Q:** How do I get to the debug mode in 8.3.1 *Basic*?
- A:** To reach debug mode, insert the following line into your IPLINPUT file below the PTN, but above the first DEV line: PRM DEBUG=OOZ00. By setting this parameter, you will execute a program called “OOZ00” which will allow you to obtain variable, system, and program information when <CTRL-B> is depressed.
- Q:** I am moving programs and data files from a level 6 *Basic* running on an Altos machine to a level 8 *Basic* running on an SCO machine. Is there anything I have to do to the programs and data files once they are brought over to the new machine?
- A:** You have to run \*PROG8 on the programs and \*CNVT86 on the data files.

## IDOL-IV<sup>TM</sup>

- Q:** In IDOL-IV, how do you prevent someone from editing an object view’s attributes by using the F7 key while the view is displayed?
- A:** In 8.3.1’s Object View, (F7), View edit option, change the view alterations flag to “N” and set the developer/user flag in system administration to “User”. To use this new configuration, exit IDOL-IV and *Basic*. The next access will use the new settings.
- Q:** When I hit F1 from an IDOL-IV menu to get into definition maintenance, I receive a message that help module IDF1MNU1 has not been defined, why?
- A:** This pop-up help menu is defined by Thoroughbred and shipped with every IDOL-IV. This is one way of getting into definition maintenance, the other way is through b\ the IDOL-IV menu IDMENU1. Something must have happened to the definition. To correct the problem, RUN “8H” and choose help maintenance. Type in the help definition name “IDF1MNU1”. The first four characters of the first line of this pop-up menu should be: .HM. If it is not, change the line and save the definition. If you have a system that works look at this help module and make sure they are identical.

### Solution-IV™

**Q:** Can the standard financial statement update be put in the batch report selector?

**A:** In 8.3.0, no. The batch report selector only works with Accounts Receivable. In 8.3.1, yes. To view the reports available to the batch report selector, type “R” at any *Solution-IV* menu. To run reports in the batch process, select the desired report hitting the return key, then <F4> and enter the printer-id and company code. The selected reports will now be run unattended.

**Q:** How do I setup a report in the batch report selector?

**A:** The *Solution-IV* batch selector is based on operator code. Use <F8> to setup your operator code and copy the reports available from a previously defined operator. The operator code, “TA4” is setup on every *Solution-IV* distributed. To run the report with the batch selector, run the report once and at the Report Selections Correct message, select the “Save” option. This will tell the *Solution-IV* batch report selector what parameters to use with that specific report for that specific operator.

### OPENworkshop™

**Q:** What is *OPENworkshop*?

**A:** *OPENworkshop* is Thoroughbred’s Object Oriented Programming environment. It features new concepts that dramatically change the way developers build business software. *OPENworkshop* re-defines the relationships between data and program code, and between application designer and application user.

**Q:** How do I get *OPENworkshop*?

**A:** After purchasing and installing *OPENworkshop*, you can start the design process just about from anywhere. One menu that we have supplied you with as a temporary “starting point” is accessible by running the program “OO” once the appropriate object library (*IDOL-IV*) is open.

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# The Inside Track

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Frequently asked questions, tech tips, & problem reports for users of Thoroughbred Software Products

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Volume 3 Issue 5

April 1996

## Thoroughbred Basic™

**Q:** How do you recommend handling the YEAR 2000 in my 3GL applications that have a 2-digit year?

**A:** Recently, the year 2000 has been covered in the media as the, “Problem which will bring computers to a standstill.” Thoroughbred has several methods to deal with the new century, using SQL dates. Because each method has its own caveats, we will devote an entire newsletter to this topic shortly.

**Q:** I have a file in the /dev directory that is a named pipe, which is used to communicate data to other applications. If I open the named pipe in *Basic* everything works fine. If I create a symbolic link that is linked to the named pipe and try to OPEN this pipe I am getting an error 103 in *Basic* 8.3.0. How can I correct this?

**A:** *Basic* 8.3.0 had a problem opening symbolic links. All of these issues have been corrected in version 8.3.1. To use a symbolic link with *Basic* 8.3.0, first, make sure you are correctly creating a named pipe. To create a named pipe in UNIX use the following command:

```
mknod namepipe p
```

Second, after you create the named pipe, make a symbolic link to the pipe with the command:

```
ln -s /tmp/namepipe /tmp/sympipe
```

Third, in *Basic*, to ensure you do not receive an error 103, make sure you have a hierarchical directory in the IPLINPUT file and OPEN the named pipe as a TEXT file. To put something into the symbolic link, “SYSTEM” out of *Basic* and type in the following command:

```
cat /etc/termcap > /tmp/sympipe &
```

Next in *Basic*, “READRECORD” from the channel that has the symbolic link opened and you should see the contents from /etc/termcap. You can set this in *Basic*:

```
00010      SYSTEM “mknod /tmp/namepipe p”
00020      SYSTEM “ln -s /tmp/namepipe /tmp/sympipe”
00030      OPEN(1,OPT=“TEXT”) “/tmp/sympipe”
00040      LET A$=“FRED”
00050      WRITERECORD(1)A$
00060      READRECORD(1)B$      ! Simulates other applications’ Read structure
00070      PRINT B$
Output: FRED
```

**IDOL-IV™**

**Q:** How do I run a *Script-IV™* script from UNIX cron?

**A:** To run a *Script-IV* script from cron, your TERMINAL file should have 'null' as a tty. Your IPL file should include the following lines:

```
DEV T0,5,,,,,null
IPL 1,2,T0,Program-To-Bypass-Operator-Login
```

The Program-To-Bypass-Operator-Login should do the following:

```
00010 DIM ]7$(400);
]7$(77,3)="XXX",           !Operator Code
]7$(228,1)="A";           !Set Auto-Login
OPEN (32700,OPT="OLIB") "IDOL-IV"; !Open Object Library
CALL "IDPUB4",]6$,7$,8$,]9$;
CALL "8ZPSYS",]SYSV$;
RUN "ID"                   ! "ID" or your script
```

The operator record could then have the script name as the program to run at login. Your cron command or shell script should change to the *Basic* directory before attempting to run *Basic*:

```
cd /u/lib/basic;          /basic iplcron
```

Finally, when your script is finished, it should either run a *Basic* program that performs a "RELEASE" or does a: LET EXIT-OPTION = [SYSTEM]

**NOTE:** The terminal in the IPLINPUT must be type 5 or the script will hang. If you are running out of an object library remember to open it before the call to IDPUB4 in the by-pass program.

**VIP/Gateway for Windows™**

**Q:** Why am I being returned to a *Basic* READY prompt when I run VIP™ 3.17?

**A:** Your UNIX TERM variable must be set to VT220 and you need to have started *Basic* with the VIPW terminal table.

**Q:** How can I make DynaComm™ slave print within *Basic* without running VIP?

**A:** To start, you need to emulate a VT220. Within the terminal table that you are using, make sure PS="KE[5i" and PE="KE[4i". You need to select "Keep Printer Channel Open" and "Raw Passthrough Mode" for the printer options in DynaComm. When you are done printing, select "Close Printer Channel" from the DynaComm menu to send the output to the printer. From the *Basic* side, you need to set the option on the DEV line for slave printing (i.e. DEV PS,4,,,,2,,tty).

**NOTE:** Thoroughbred has incorporated the capabilities into VIP 3.17 to allow you to slave print from within *Basic* and IDOL-IV using the DYNACOMM terminal emulation package and the above steps are not necessary.

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# The Inside Track

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Frequently asked questions, tech tips, & problem reports for users of Thoroughbred Software Products

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Volume 3 Issue 5

May 1996

## Thoroughbred Basic™

**Q:** How do I set up *Basic* so that my users do not get the same task ID logging into the DOS Network *Basic*?

**A:** Make sure you have "share" in the workstation autoexec.bat.  
(i.e. SHARE /L:500 /F:5100).

Put the following in the login script:

```
MACHINE=P_STATION           ! Novell 2.11
MACHINE="%P_STATION"        ! Novell 3.11 and later
```

If you are unable to add the above to the login script, then use SHELL.CFG for the VLM's, next use the following to the NET.CFG file:

```
LONG MACHINE TYPE=machinename(2 to 6 characters).
Type "NODENAME" on each workstation and add the value returned to the
TERMINAL file eg.:
CON T00000000000000
```

**NOTE:** If you are running Windows for Workgroups network on top of Novell the above will not work. You have to hardcode the task IDs in the icon properties: (i.e. b.exe T1)

**Q:** Why does my IBM-3151 terminal not display the graphics properly in 8.3.1?

**A:** In 8.3.1, you need to NULL both the 'SS' and 'SE' mnemonics in the IBM3151 windows table, to display graphics properly.

**Q:** How do I date math in *Basic*, such as, to get an elapsed time of a test routine?

**A:** Set precision to 14, get the CDN for the start time then get the CDN for the end time. The result will be the difference in days.fraction-of-day. To get the difference subtract the start time from the end time, print the NTD of the difference +1:

```
00010  PRECISION 14
00020  LET A=CDN
       execute your test routine
08000  LET B=CDN
08020  LET C=B-A;
       PRINT NTD(C+1, "HH:MI:SS")
```

**IDOL-IV™**

**Q:** How do I make a *Report-IV™* report use different sorts based on what the user selects?

**A:** You can use the External Interface program IRPCA0 and populate X\$(49,2) accordingly in a *Basic* program or *Script-IV* script:

```
DIM X$(84)
LET X$(1,4) = "AUTO",
    X$(5,8) = "report-name",
    X$(40,8) = "exit-program",
    X$(49,2) = "sort-number",
    X$(68,1) = "Y" or "N", or
    X$(68,2) = "printer-id",
    X$(72,6) = "last-report-in-range",
    X$(78,6) = "report-name-mask",
    X$(84,1) = "r for report or q for query"
RUN "IRPCA0"
```

Or, you may use a CONNECT REPORT in a *Script-IV™* script, populating REPORT\$[5] accordingly:

```
DIM REPORT$[10];
LET REPORT$[5] = "sort-number"
CONNECT REPORT "report-name"
```

**Note:** You must have a SORT BY SORT0 specified on the LN line in the File Section of the report for this to work properly.

**Q:** How can I default a message response using INPUT MESSAGE directive in a script using a type 4 message?

**A:** You can accomplish this task by populating the INTO variable and using a lowercase "i" for your MESSAGE type. For example:

```
LET A$ = "FRED"
INPUT MESSAGE "i,4" INTO A$ USING "IDMSGS"
```

**OPENworkshop™**

**Q:** I just installed OPENworkshop. Why does my system hang when I try to run the program "OO"?

**A:** You must have the object library "IDOL-IV" open either by running IDOL-IV first or by setting the following line in the IPL file:

```
PRM OPENLIB=IDOL-IV,32700
```

and you must have a hierarchical directory entry in the IPL file you are using, such as:

```
DEV D9,1,,,1,,
```

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# The Inside Track

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Frequently asked questions, tech tips, & problem reports for users of Thoroughbred Software Products

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Volume 3 Issue 7

July 1996

## Thoroughbred *Basic*<sup>TM</sup>

**Q:** How can I delete a mnemonic defined in a terminal table?

**A:** If you are using *Basic* in Windows mode, use 8NPSD to delete the mnemonic. In 8NPSD you are in a free form editor and can simply delete the whole line for the mnemonic. Remember to delete all lines associated with that mnemonic. Another way to delete a mnemonic is to use \*NPSD, by typing in the word DELETE at the "Enter code to be transmitted to terminal" prompt for the desired mnemonic.

**Q:** How do I print to an ASCII Text file from within *Basic* under UNIX without changing my code?

**A:** The easiest way to print to an ASCII Text file without changing any code is to create a DEV line in your IPLINPUT file as in the example below and PRINT to this device:

```
DEV PF,4,,,1,,cat>file-name
```

Where file-name is the name of the UNIX file, 'cat>' will recreate the file each time; 'cat>>' will append to the end of the ASCII text file. This file will be created in the *Basic* directory. In *Basic* do the following:

```
OPEN(1)"PF"  
PRINT(1)"HELLO THERE!!!"  
CLOSE(1)
```

If you then look at the ASCII text file it will have HELLO THERE!!! as the text.

**Q:** How do I access more than 10 directories with the *Basic* Utilities and *Dictionary-IV*?

**A:** For *Basic* level 8.3.1 and above, you can use directories D0-D9 and DA-DZ. *IDOL-IV* and the *Basic* Utilities fully support the added directories. For *Basic* levels 8.x to 8.3.0, you will need to use a hierarchical directory for one of your directories. This will allow you to specify an absolute path when you open a file. A hierarchical directory looks like the following in your IPLINPUT file:

```
DEV D9,1,,,1,,
```

**Q:** How do I upgrade from a 16 user to a 32 user *Basic* and *IDOL-IV*?

**A:** To upgrade the *Basic* you must remove the *tbredbas.xxx* from */usr/lib/Basic*, where *xxx* is the version of *Basic*. Make a backup copy of *IPLINPUT*, *TERMINAL*, *TCONFIG8* and *TCONFIGW* files. These are the files that *Basic* will overwrite when you install a new version. Next, you need to reload the Thoroughbred *Basic* files from the original media and run *./install*, typing in the new 32 user serial number. You do not need to reinstall *IDOL-IV*. The *IDOL-IV* user count will be automatically updated when you install *Basic*.

**Q:** How do I set up *Basic* so that my users do not get the same task ID logging into the DOS Network *Basic*? (Please note: This question originally ran in the May edition of *The Inside Track*, and was printed with an error in the answer, the correct response is as follows)

**A:** Make sure you have "share" in the workstation autoexec.bat.  
(i.e.) SHARE/L:500 /F:5100).

Put the following in the login script:

```
MACHINE=P_STATION           !Novell 2.11
MACHINE="%P_STATION"       !Novell 3.11 and later
```

If you are unable to add the above to the login script, then use the following:

```
LONG MACHINE TYPE=machinename(2 to 6 characters).
```

Insert the above line into SHELL.CFG if you are using NETX; NET.CFG if you are using VLM'S. Type "NODENAME on each workstation and add the value returned to the TERMINAL file:

```
CON T00000000000000
```

If you plan on using the DOS Network Basic with a Windows Environment connected to a Novell Server, you will have to create a program icon that executes Basic with a specified Task ID (i.e. b.exe T1).

## **IDOL-IV™**

**Q:** How can I move a Query from one machine to another?

**A:** In order to move a Query from one machine to another you can use the IDOL-IV backup and restore utility located on menu IDMENU2. Backup the Query, specifying the library and name. Then, copy it to a new system and restore it using backup/restore.

**Q:** How can I move and resize an Object View?

**A:** After creating the Object View and bringing it up on the screen, use the <F1> key to toggle the resize/move option. This option brings up the resize indicator at the bottom of the screen. When the resize indicator displays an "X" in the lower right-hand corner, the bottom row and right column move with the arrow keys to expand and reduce the window size. With the indicator in the upper left-hand corner, the top row and left column move to resize the window. If you press <F1> while the resize box is displayed, you receive the "<-->" move prompt. The cursor keys will move the view as one unit around the screen. You can also use Pg-Up, Pg-Dwn, tab, back-tab, and home keys.

**Q:** How do I pass variables from my scripts to my reports?

**A:** In the script use a FORMAT INCLUDE #formatname, OPT="NONE" and populate the format with the data you wish to pass, like a logical format. Next, perform a CONNECT REPORT to execute the report. In the Entry Section of the report, do the same:

```
FORMAT INCLUDE #formatname, OPT="NONE"
```

You will then have access to the data populated in the script.

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# The Inside Track

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Frequently asked questions, tech tips, & problem reports for users of Thoroughbred Software Products

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Volume 3 Issue 8

August 1996

## Thoroughbred Basic™

**Q:** How do I manipulate an SQL Date field in *Basic* that is defined in an IDOL-IV™ Format?

**A:** Using the #FORMAT commands, OPEN the data file that has the IDOL-IV SQL Date and READ the data into the #FORMAT. Printing the #FORMAT.date-field you will get an SQL number. That number is available for mathematic operations or changes. An example of how to read the date out of the *Basic* file is:

(UTSALHSH is a format, link and data file included with the example library in IDOL-IV)

```
10 OPEN(1)"UTSALHSH"                ! Open the data file
20 FORMAT INCLUDE #UTSALHSH,OPT="NONE" ! Put the format in memory
30 K$=KEY(1)                          ! Get the first key in the file
40 READ(1,KEY=K$) #UTSALHSH           ! Read the record out of the data file
50 PRINT #UTSALHSH.INVOICE-DATE       ! 728662 = the SQL number for 01/02/96.
```

If you want to change this date to 01/03/96 then you would do the following:

```
60 LET #UTSALHSH.INVOICE-DATE = DTN("010396","MMDDYY")
70 WRITE(1,KEY=K$) #UTSALHSH
```

## IDOL-IV™

**Q:** How do I change the date format in IDOL-IV?

**A:** The date format for IDOL-IV is obtained from the 8th parameter on the CNF line in your IPLfile. Valid values are: 'D' for DDMMYY, 'M' for MMDDYY, and 'Y' for YYMMDD.

Example:

```
CNF 1,19,1,58,,,Y
PTN 1,500000
etc.
```

**Q:** How can I add an option to the IDOL-IV Hot Key menu?

**A:** Remember, you cannot run programs directly from IDOL-IV pop-up menus, but you can call programs and CONNECT to IDOL-IV objects. At any user input statement, hit <CTRL-P>, to bring up the Hot Key menu. Press <F1> to modify the pop-up menu and add your option and function. For example:

```
.MN.12,2,56,16
1-CUSTOMER-VIEW          CONNECT VIEW UTCUST
2-SALES-REPS             CONNECT VIEW UTREP
```

IDOL-IV 8.3.1 allows each operator to have a different Hot Key menu, specified in the operator record within IDOL-IV.

**Q:** What is the 50 year rule regarding six character SQL dates?

**A:** SQL dates include date and time down to six decimal place accuracy. To determine the century of a six character date, Thoroughbred *Basic*<sup>TM</sup> will go either 50 years forward or 50 years back based on the date entered and the current year.

Entering a date greater than 50 years ago from the current year, *Basic* assumes that the date is in the next century. Entering a date 50 years less than the current year, *Basic* assumes the date to be in the same century.

Example: If you entered 01/01/46 before December 31, 1996, the year will be 1946, but if you enter 12/31/45 the year will be 2045.

**Q:** How can I change the input mask of my SQL date field?

**A:** In version 8.3.1, in the format Valid Entries section for the date field, you can specify "IM=date-mask" and "DM=date-mask" specifying an input mask and/or display mask for this date field.

**Q:** How would I modify a report so that the printer can be opened with the DEV= option without calling the report from *Script-IV*<sup>TM</sup>?

**A:** In the "I" lines section of the report, you can find out what channel the printer is currently OPENed to by referencing #IDSV.OPEN-PRINTER-CH. You can then close this channel and re-open the printer with the DEV= option.

```
I101 LET U0=#IDSV.OPEN-PRINTER-CH
I102 CLOSE(U0)
I103 LET U0$=",1,1,,cat >out.file"
I104 OPEN(U0,DEV=U0$) "LP"
```

## **OPENworkshop**<sup>TM</sup>

**Q:** In *OPENworkshop*, can you add a dataname from another link into an Object View?

**A:** Yes. You can place datanames from other logically connected files (formats with same-named data elements) into Object Views in *IDOL-IV*. To do this:

Go into your object view.

Press the Character-Insert key to insert a new column into the view.

Select <A?> from the window.

Enter a column width and specify the desired linkname.dataname to put into your view.

Once you refresh the view, the data for that column will display. This new column data is not changeable.

To change the view column specification, simply place your cursor on that column and press <F3>.



# The Inside Track

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Volume 3 Issue 9

September 1996

## Thoroughbred Basic™

**Q:** How do I get data from a Thoroughbred *Basic* file to Microsoft Excel?

**A:** We recommend using Thoroughbred *Gateway* for Windows™, which will enable you to send the data to the spreadsheet and update the data on an ongoing basis. This process will “poke” data into specific cells within the spreadsheet. If a connection between the PC and the *Basic* data file is not possible, you could write the data to a *Basic* text file and import the file into Excel.

**Q:** How can I have different printer table assignments for the same printer’s task?

**A:** Open the printer with the following command:

OPEN(C,OPT=TABLE=TABLE\$)P\$ where TABLE\$=name of the printer table

Example: P\$=name of the printer task.

07000 OPEN(5,OPT=TABLE="HPLJ+",ERR=08000)"PW"

This example assigns channel number 5 to the device named PW and loads a printer mnemonic table named HPLJ+ from the IDOL-IV System Dictionary. If an error occurs, such as the printer does not exist, statement 8000 is executed. The printer table HPLJ+ would be defined in the IDOL-IV Printer Table Maintenance option off of the menu "IDMENU2".

**Q:** I use the Windows 95 feature to change keyboards to different languages, and save the special codes to a text field. Why are the codes replaced with spaces when I bring the text back?

**A:** The codes used to generate the special characters are upper ASCII which is normally stripped by *Basic*. In your IPLINPUT file, use the parameter PRM DONTCHECKTEXT and *Basic* will not strip these codes.

## IDOL-IV™

**Q:** Can I erase the WRK files that IDOL-IV creates on my hard disk?

**A:** These files are created through the many processes that IDOL-IV performs, they can be deleted on the system without causing problems. IDOL-IV will create the files when necessary. The work file names are:

WRK1 + FID(0)	WRK5 + FID(0)	WRK6 + FID(0)
WRK7 + FID(0)	WRK8 + FID(0)	WRK9 + FID(0)
4GCPER + FID(0)	IDWKV + FID(0)	IRPER + FID(0)
4GLWRK + FID(0)	IDWX + FID(0)	WEX + FID(0)

**Q:** How do I move an element in an IDOL-IV™ format?

**A:** The F3 key will move an element in the format as follows:

If you wanted to move field1 to field5 you would press F3 and type 1,6.

If you wanted to move field1 to field2 you would press F3 and type 1,3.

This methodology must be used so that IDOL-IV can do a line insert to add the new field and then adjust all of the field numbers accordingly.

**Q:** Why do I get the message "Cannot determine link between files" when attempting to run my report?

**A:** When using multiple files in *Report-IV*™, the files must have a common thread. That is to say that the second file

listed must have an element whose name matches the first file exactly. The third file must have a name that matches the first or second, and so on. This is called sequentially linking files. Also, the elements that "join" the files must be either primary or secondary keys of the secondary file. If the files have multiple elements which are the same, you can use the "JOIN" clause in the file section.

**Q:** When I print *Report-IV* reports in 8.3.1, I receive a blank page at the start, how can I remove this?

**A:** To remove the form feed at the start of the reports, remove the \$0C\$ from the OPEN statement in the IDOL-IV printer table. The printer tables are accessed from option #14 on menu IDMENU2.

**Q:** When I print reports that are chained together from my script, I do not get an 'FF' between them. How can I solve this problem?

**A:** To issue a form feed between reports, but not before the first report, place a Termination line in the ENTRY-SECTION such as:

T901 /PC='FF'

**Q:** Where can I use Connect Report within *Report-IV*?

**A:** Connect Report is valid on "I" & "T" type lines in the Entry Section, "CTNNE" lines in the Control Section and in any command lines in the Report Section.

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# The Inside Track

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Volume 4 Issue 1

December 1996

## Thoroughbred Basic™

**Q:** How can I turn READONLY on and off in *Basic*?

**A:** To turn **off** READONLY:

10 A\$=PRM	! READONLY = \$80\$
20 A\$(2,1)=AND(A\$(2,1),\$7F\$)	! \$80\$=10000000
30 SET PRM A\$	! \$7F\$=01111111 in binary
	! \$7F is NOT(\$80\$)

To turn **on** READONLY:

```
10 A$=PRM
20 A$(2,1)=IOR(A$(2,1),$80$)
30 SET PRM A$
```

**Q:** What is the difference between the APPEND and REWIND options on the Transaction processing LOG OPEN directive?

**A:** When you issue a LOG OPEN command with the APPEND option, all the transactions are written to and kept in this file. If you open the APPEND file with the REWIND option, then only one transaction at a time is written to this file. Once the transaction is complete, the information in the file is erased.

**Q:** Is it possible to write information into a transaction log file and move it to another system and play through the file?

**A:** Yes. Using 8RECOVER, the Play Back option can be used to maintain an identical copy of the database on a second hardware platform.

**Q:** I killed my ghost task from UNIX. Why is TSK(2) still showing them active; will a shutdown remove these tasks?

**A:** The Operating System shared memory and semaphores are still in memory. A shutdown will remove these. The UNIX commands "ipcrm -s" and "ipcrm -m" will also remove the shared memory and semaphores.

**Q:** Why do I lose my activation key after restoring *Basic* from my backup tape?

**A:** *Basic* sets up security to prohibit the restoring of *Basic* on another machine. After restoring your backup tape, remove the security file (`/u/lib/basic/tbredbas.version-number`), rename IPLINPUT, TERMINAL, UTILS/TCONFIGW and UTILS/TCONFIG8 to save your configuration and reinstall *Basic* from the original media. This will require the entry of a new activation key and resolve the restricted access problem. You can then erase the new TERMINAL, IPLINPUT, UTILS/TCONFIG8 AND UTILS/TCONFIGW and rename the old files back to their original names.

**IDOL-IV™**

**Q:** How can I create a window to collect parameters, which I will use in *Report-IV™* as selection criteria?

**A:** You should create a logical format and screen in IDOL-IV to collect the data using a script PRINT SCREEN and INPUT SCREEN or a CONNECT SCREEN. In the script, you can then do a CONNECT REPORT. In *Report-IV* do a FORMAT INCLUDE of the logical format you created. This will include the data that you collected in your script.

**Q:** What is an ERR=98?

**A:** This is an Error in a public program. The line that you received the error on most likely has a CALL on it. You will need to put an ESCAPE on line 8900 of the public program that is being called. When you receive the error the next time you run it, it will escape out. At this point you can do a DUMP RETRY which will give you the line of code that caused the error.

**Q:** How can I use the pre-process/post-process section in my format to have more control over the key range in my CONNECT VIEW?

**A:** In the pre-process section you can specify a key range with the "USING" clause as follows:

CONNECT (2) VIEW view-name USING #format.dataname

The #format.dataname is a global format element that was included and populated by any number of ways prior to this CONNECT(2) View Statement.