

Autozaps diskette formats

This document explains some changes we propose to make to the availability of Autozaps diskettes for obsolete and obsolescent computers.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The many thousands of current Global service contracts are for quite a wide range of computers, probably about a hundred. Nevertheless only 13 'Autozaps distribution formats' – that is the diskette formats on which we would distribute Autozaps – cover the entire range of these computers.

These formats are:–

<i>Format Code</i>	<i>Media size</i>	<i>Sides</i>	<i>Tracks /side</i>	<i>Sectors /track</i>	<i>Sector size</i>	<i>Number files</i>	<i>Typical computer supporting this format</i>
A1M	8 inch	1	77	26	128	51	Obsolete 1970s early 1980s
B3B	3½ inch	2	80	9	512	63	Modern PC
B3C	3½ inch	2	80	9	512	63	Modern Unix Computer
C10A	5¼ inch	2	40	8	512	63	Early 1980s PC – pre DOS V2.0
C21A	5¼ inch	1	77	8	512	63	Burroughs BTOS
G1A	5¼ inch	2	80	15	512	63	Modern PC
N1B	3½ inch	1	70	9	512	63	Early Apricot
R11B	5¼ inch	1	77	variable	512	63	Sirius – Victor 900
R19A	5¼ inch	2	80	16	256	63	Early 1980s non-clone 8086s
R20A	5¼ inch	2	80	8	512	63	Early 1980s non-clone 8086s
R29A	5¼ inch	1	80	10	512	99	PDP-11
R34A	5¼ inch	2	80	5	1024	63	Misys Tripos

plus streamer tape formats.

As time progresses, diskette formats become obsolete. Some of the above are already obsolete. This bulletin explains our intentions with respect to all the above formats.

PLANS FOR AUTOZAPS FORMATS

Mainstream Formats – B3B and G1A

Autozaps will continue to be available for these two formats for the foreseeable future.

Unix-specific 3½" Format – B3C

It should be noted that B3B and B3C are identical formats. B3C has been invented merely to highlight the fact that on some computers, 'plus-format' diskettes are not readable. Therefore on such computers, distribution diskettes will be sent out on B3C not B3B+.

An unfortunate side-effect of the above is that we have not been providing Autozaps for those service contracts with a distribution format of B3C. This will be rectified – in future B3C users will receive B3B autozaps diskettes.

Obsolete Formats which we will drop now – N1B, R20A and R29A

These formats are only relevant for obsolete computers which have passed their 'supported until' date. We are therefore dropping the above three formats immediately.

Obsolete and Obsolescent Formats which will be dropped from 1994 – R19A and C10A

The above two formats will not be available from the first autozap run in 1994.

Already-dropped formats – A1M, C21A, R11B, R34A

We have not distributed Autozaps on any of the above formats for a couple of years. Therefore those users with these distribution formats are failing to get zaps on any format.

HOW TO CHANGE THE AUTOZAP DISTRIBUTION FORMAT FOR A USER

Bearing in mind the above planned changes, you may wish to change the autozap distribution format for some of your users. **We strongly suggest you do this now rather than wait for the format to be dropped.** To do this merely provide the serial number and name of the user together with the preferred distribution format (e.g. B3B or G1A) to:-

Ms Debra Burling
Service Administrator
TIS Software Ltd
Paragon House
75 Farringdon Road
London EC1M 3JY

Tel 071-831 8811
Fax 071-831 2116

HOW TO CHANGE THE FREQUENCY OF ZAPS FOR A USER (OR RESELLER)

Debra Burling will also, if you wish, change the zap frequency for any of your users. We bring this to the attention of resellers who feel bogged down by the large number of Autozaps diskettes arriving at too-frequent intervals. The zap frequency is held in three ways:-

- **Frequency reseller receives own copy of autozaps** This is held for each reseller and can be monthly, 3-monthly or 6-monthly (we recommend monthly or 3-monthly);
- **Frequency most users of the reseller to receive autozaps zaps** This is held for each reseller can be monthly, 3-monthly or 6-monthly (we recommend 3-monthly or 6-monthly);
- **Frequency a particular user to receive autozaps zaps** This can optionally be set for each user and it overrides setting for 'most users of the reseller'; it can be monthly, 3-monthly or 6-monthly.