

Configuration Codes

With effect from the 1st January 1993 a major simplification is being introduced to the ordering of configuration codes for the current versions of System Manager (version 7.0 and version 8.0).

SECTION 1 – HISTORICAL BACKGROUND TO CONFIGURATION CODES

If you are not interested in the history skip this and the next section and resume at section 3 overleaf.

Global System Manager for BOS has been around since 1977. Since 1979 we have found it necessary to have various different configurations available for a particular computer. This was because:-

- Some computers would not bootstrap if expected peripherals were not present;
- Users wished to use and parameterise a growing range of peripherals. Since 1981 we have given up any attempt to pre-configure all combinations of peripherals by making available Global Configurator.

When ordering System Manager between 1981 and 1989 resellers had to either ask us to create a configuration to match their requirements or rely on lists of configuration files distributed from time to time.

Since 1989 when ordering System Manager resellers have been able to select the configuration which most closely matches their requirements and then use Configurator to tune the system to the exact specification.

During the entire period since Configurator was introduced in 1981, configuration numbers have been allocated to coincide with now-obsolete commercial policy or now-superseded computers; thus the list of configurations for System Manager for BOS (on standard 80x86 computers) is untidy and very difficult for new resellers and new staff at existing resellers to get to grips with.

Configurations for Unix and MS-DOS have, by comparison, been simple. Nevertheless the spurious requirement to select a configuration code from the handbook is there for these operating systems purely to fit in with System Manager for BOS.

SECTION 2 – WHY THIS SHOULD CHANGE

This should change for two reasons:-

- Firstly to remove the need to select a configuration code from the complex tables in the handbook – all that should be necessary is the configuration number.
- Secondly to simplify the choice of configuration number for BOS.

We can change now because computers with incorrect configurations tend not to fail to bootstrap any more.

SECTION 3 – THE CHANGES AS FROM 1ST JANUARY

It will no longer be necessary to select a configuration code from the handbook as from January 1993; indeed configuration codes will not be printed in issue 12 and later of the handbook. All you need to do is select the configuration number and indicate the price level (i.e. number of screens plus, if 1 screen only, an indication of whether the system is concurrent).

Separate LAN configuration numbers are available for computers where LAN and Multi-user are alternatives (e.g. BOS and MS-DOS configurations).

Previously we have attempted to hold the 'default configuration' information for a site such as a reseller's site or a LAN where many configurations might be current. This default was never reliable and led to many problems of 'incorrect generations'. We are abandoning any pretence at maintaining this information.

All BOS configuration numbers (5500 to 5519) are being abandoned and new numbers allocated in the range 5700 to 5799. These are more logically allocated. **Configurations in the range 5500 to 5519 will not be updated with zaps or bug fixes during 1993** and we recommend that you do not attempt to order such configuration numbers in 1993. They will become unavailable (even for re-generations) from 1st January 1994.

The configurations for BOS have been allocated to take account of the following variables:-

- Is the configuration LAN or MU?
- Will the machine boot from BACRES and allow SDCOPY, Configurator and INSBOS to operate? The three important variables here are:
 - Is the bus MCA-compatible or ISA-/EISA-compatible?
 - Is the diskette the correct size (3½" or 5¼")?
 - Is the hard disk accessed via the BIOS or via an Adaptec SCSI host adaptor?

We have not attempted to resolve the problems of providing configurations which allow bootstrap of computers without an integral screen. The large number of different ways the 'master' serial console can be connected make this unfeasible. Resellers will need to modify configuration files before BACRES is booted for such computers.

Analysis of the above list has led us to produce the following twelve configurations:-

<i>Config number</i>	<i>Bus</i>	<i>Diskette format</i>	<i>Hard disk assumed</i>	<i>LAN?</i>
5700	ISA or EISA	5¼" G	via BIOS	non-LAN
5701	ISA or EISA	5¼" G	via BIOS	LAN
5702	ISA or EISA	5¼" C	via BIOS	non-LAN
5703	ISA or EISA	5¼" C	via BIOS	LAN
5704	ISA or EISA	3½" B	via BIOS	non-LAN
5705	ISA or EISA	3½" B	via BIOS	LAN
5706	ISA or EISA	5¼" G	Adaptec	non-LAN
5707	ISA or EISA	5¼" G	Adaptec	LAN
5708	ISA or EISA	3½" B	Adaptec	non-LAN
5709	ISA or EISA	3½" B	Adaptec	LAN
5710	MCA	3½" B	via BIOS	non-LAN
5711	MCA	3½" B	via BIOS	LAN

Configurations 5702 and 5703 are clearly obsolescent (there are few computers still running which only support low-density 5¼" diskettes). These two configurations will be withdrawn at the end of 1993.

The peripherals supported by the above are shown in 1 (for 5700 to 5709) and 1 (for 5710 to 5711).

Clearly Figures I and II allow a greater proportion of the computers being sold to be easily matched with a configuration number. The following table shows the mapping from existing configurations to new configurations.

<i>Old configuration</i>	<i>New configuration name</i>	<i>Number non-LAN</i>	<i>Number LAN</i>
5500 IBM AT	ISA or EISA; 5¼" G; BIOS	5700	5701
5505 Apricot 5¼" C	ISA or EISA; 5¼" C; BIOS	5702	5703
5506 Foundation	ISA or EISA; 5¼" G; BIOS	5700	5701
5508 Apricot 3½"	ISA or EISA; 3½" B; BIOS	5704	5705
5512 IBM PS/2 30	ISA or EISA; 3½" B; BIOS	5704	5705
5513 IBM PS/2 50	MCA	5710	5711
5515 Foundation 386HP	ISA or EISA; 5¼" G; Adaptec	5706	5707
5517 Apricot 5¼" G	ISA or EISA; 5¼" G; BIOS	5700	5701
5518 iServer	ISA or EISA; 5¼" G; Adaptec	5706	5707
5519 IBM PC and XT	ISA or EISA; 5¼" C; BIOS	5702	5703

The reseller will need to run Configurator to define the position of the master serial terminal for Foundation 386HPs and other computers with no integral screen.

All configurations are aimed at IBM-AT-style or PS/2-model-30-style computers. They may operate on clones. Configurations are supplied with the following items in the configuration file:

<i>Type</i>	<i>Device</i>	<i>Configurations</i>
disk	2 variable-size integral drives	5700 to 5705
	2 variable-size Adaptec SCSI drives	5706 to 5709
diskette	1 5¼" and 1 3½" diskette drives	all
console	1 colour or monochrome screen	all
	1 serial terminal on COM1	all
printer	2 parallel printers on LPT1 & LPT2	all
	1 serial printer on COM2	all
tape	1 QIC-02 tape drive	5700 to 5705
	1 Adaptec SCSI tape drive	5706 to 5709

Configurations can be modified using Global Configurator to add, amend or delete any of the above and also to add one or more of the following so long as the restrictions on number of screens and network/multi-user restrictions are not breached:

<i>Type</i>	<i>Device</i>	<i>Device</i>
disk	OMTI 510 SCSI disk	Adaptec SCSI
	Tandon disk pack	
diskette	3½" diskette drive	5¼" diskette
drive		
console	COM2/COM3/COM4	Arnet Multiport
& Twinport	Arnet Smartport plus 8	Arnet Octaport
	TCL +4D and +8D	TCL CC/4D and
CC/8D	Hyperport & Hyper Mx	Apricot Quad
card		
printer	COM1/COM2/COM3/COM4	Arnet Multiport
& Twinport	Arnet Smartport plus 8	Arnet Octaport
	TCL +4D and +8D	TCL CC/4D and
CC/8D	Hyperport & Hyper Mx	Apricot Quad
card		
network	SMC Arcnet-PC	SMC Arcnet-
PC100		
comms	DSP ARC-200	DSP ARC-260X
	ASYNCH on COM1	SYNCH on IBM
bi-synch card	ASYNCH on COM2	

Figure I – ISA and EISA bus configurations for BOS

All configurations are aimed at PS/2 style computers. They may operate on clones. All configurations are supplied with the following items in the configuration file:

<i>Type</i>	<i>Device</i>
disk	2 variable-size integral drives
diskette	1 5¼" and 1 3½" diskette drives
console	1 colour or monochrome screen 1 serial terminal on COM1
printer	2 parallel printers on LPT1 & LPT2 1 serial printer on COM2
tape	1 QIC-02 tape drive

Configurations can be modified using Global Configurator to add, amend or delete any of the above and also to add one or more of the following so long as the restrictions on number of screens and network/multi-user restrictions are not breached:

<i>Type</i>	<i>Device</i>	<i>Device</i>
disk	Adaptec SCSI disk	
diskette	3½" diskette drive 5¼" diskette drive	
console	COM2/COM3/COM4	SERIAL1 to SERIAL8
	Arnet Multiport/2 TCL +4D and +8D	
	TCL CC/4D and CC/8D	Hyperport & Hyper Mx
printer	COM2/COM3/COM4	SERIAL1 to SERIAL8
	Arnet Multiport/2 TCL +4D and +8D	
	TCL CC/4D and CC/8D	Hyperport & Hyper Mx
network	DSP ARC-500	
comms	ASYNCH on COM1 or COM2	SYNCH on IBM bi-synch card

Figure II – MCA bus configurations for BOS

Those interested may wish to know that the actual configuration code generated will be 57nnxj where x is the 'price code' as follows:-

- W single user
- A concurrent
- B 2 to 3 screens
- X 4 to 7 screens
- Y 8 to 12 screens
- D 13 to 24 screens
- E 25 to 39 screens
- F 40 to 59 screens
- G 60 to 99 screens

The concurrent and single-user configurations are not available for the LAN configuration numbers.

SECTION 4 – THE NEW ORDER FORM AND USING THE OLD ORDER FORM

New order forms are available which:-

- Have a simplified configuration section
- Allow for the one-off rental fee
- Correspond to the new delivery charge policy.

We recommend that you use the new order form; supplies are available from the city despatch department. If you do continue to use the new order form after 1st January, please merely specify the configuration number omitting the two-character suffix.

SECTION 5 – SUMMARY OF ALL V7.0 AND V8.0 CONFIGURATION NUMBERS

The following table shows all version 7.0 and version 8.0 configurations:-

Unix	Bull DPX/2	5¼" G.....5525	
	HP 9000 (HP-UX V7)	tape.....5531	5¼" C.....5530
	HP 9000 (HP-UX V8)	tape.....5541	3½" B.....5540
	IBM RS/6000 (AIX V3.1)	3½" B.....5524	
	IBM RS/6000 (AIX V3.2)	3½" B.....5539	
	MIPS Riscomputer	tape.....5520	
	Motorola Delta	tape.....5529	5¼" G.....5534
	Motorola MPC88	tape.....5536	5¼" G.....5535
	SCO	5¼" G.....5522	3½" B.....5527
	Sun SPARC (Sun/OS)	3½" B.....5523	
	TIS iServer	5¼" G.....5521	
MSDOS and Novell		<i>non-LAN</i>	<i>LAN</i>
	MSDOS; 5¼" G	5600	5601
	MSDOS; 3½" B	5602	5603
	Novell 5¼" G		5606
	Novell 3½" B		5607
BOS		<i>non-LAN</i>	<i>LAN</i>
	ISA/EISA bus; 5¼" G; BIOS	5700	5701
	ISA/EISA bus; 5¼" C; BIOS	5702	5703
	ISA/EISA bus; 3½" B; BIOS	5704	5705
	ISA/EISA bus; 5¼" G; Adaptec	5706	5707
	ISA/EISA bus; 3½" B; Adaptec	5708	5709
	MCA bus; 3½" B	5710	5711