

TECHNICAL BULLETIN FROM GLOBAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS

BULLETIN NUMBER GT812, 18 SEPTEMBER 1996

Release of Global PC Workstation V8.0A

This bulletin announces the release of Global PC Workstation V8.0A.

Global PC Workstation V8.0A includes several enhancements to Global PC Workstation V8.0:-

- The V8.0A Global PC Workstation FTRAN utility can be used in conjunction with version 2.0, or later, of the Global Windows Workstation (GUI);
- A new customisation is available to optionally turn off the display of the FTRAN packet count (but leaving the percentage transmitted parameter displayed). The following file-transfer activity display options are available:-
 - display both packet count and percentage complete;
 - display percentage complete only;
 - display nothing.
- FTRAN has been improved to create, by default, all imported Global files as type "IF" (i.e. the strictly correct Global file-type for non-structured files imported from a host operating system). Note that earlier versions of FTRAN (incorrectly) created imported Global files as type "TF". The file-type of imported Global files can be customised to organisation TF to provide compatibility with earlier versions of PCWS. Note also that the Global file-type can be customised to any valid organisation (e.g. RS, PL, etc.). The customisation can be applied for all imported files or an individual file;
- FTRAN now includes an option to make imported PL files executable;
- FTRAN now includes an option to establish the record length of imported RS files;
- The default MS-DOS file suffix can now be customised (i.e. the arbitrary insistence of a file suffix of "GSM" has been removed);
- The MS-DOS file suffix is no longer restricted to exactly 3 characters. MS-DOS file suffixes of 0, 1 or 2 characters are now allowed;

- The crude FTRAN "Initialisation Retry Count" (in terms of an arbitrary processor loop) has been replaced by an "Initialisation Timeout" (in seconds);
- A new "abort" sequence has been added to the FTRAN file-transfer protocol;
- The PCWSCUS customisation utility has been improved to:-
 - allow the cursor size to be customised;
 - forbid the same key to be used for both the HOTKEY and BREAK functions;
 - warn if customisations are not saved to disk;

In addition, the help-text displayed by PCWSCUS has been improved.

- The text string "AUX" is displayed on the right-hand side of the status-line when auxiliary printing is in progress. In earlier versions of PCWS, the Global System Manager status-line was obliterated when auxiliary printing was in progress;
- The text string "FTR" is displayed on the right-hand side of the status-line when a file transfer is in progress.

In addition to the above enhancements, the following problems have been fixed:–

- 8-bit characters generated by the keyboard are now transmitted correctly to the host computer. This fixes some of the problems that have been experienced when foreign language keyboards are configured on the PC Workstation computer;
- The problem that caused a PCWS unload timeout value of 60 minutes to hang the PC Workstation computer has been fixed;
- The problem that occurred when switching between "terminal emulator" and "file-transfer" modes has been fixed. This problem causes hangs and screen corruption under some conditions if the destination MS-DOS file already exists;
- The auxiliary printer is automatically switched into MS-DOS "raw-mode" thus allowing fonts etc. to be sent to the printer attached to the back of the PC Workstation computer;
- Errors from the MS-DOS print device are now handled correctly and no longer crash the PC Workstation computer;
- Some problems in FTRAN that caused spurious EXIT 201 and EXIT 202 errors have been fixed;

- FTRAN has been improved to force the operator to acknowledge any fatal errors that occur during a file transfer;
- All COMMUNICATION ERROR messages displayed by FTRAN include a unique error number.

Global PC Workstation V8.0A is available for a copy charge for all users on service who are upgrading from Global PC Workstation V8.0.

Although Global PC Workstation V8.0 is no longer available it will continue to be supported until 1-Nov-1997.

Note also that the MS-DOS QXB diskette continues to be distributed on low-capacity 720Kb media (i.e. format "B3").