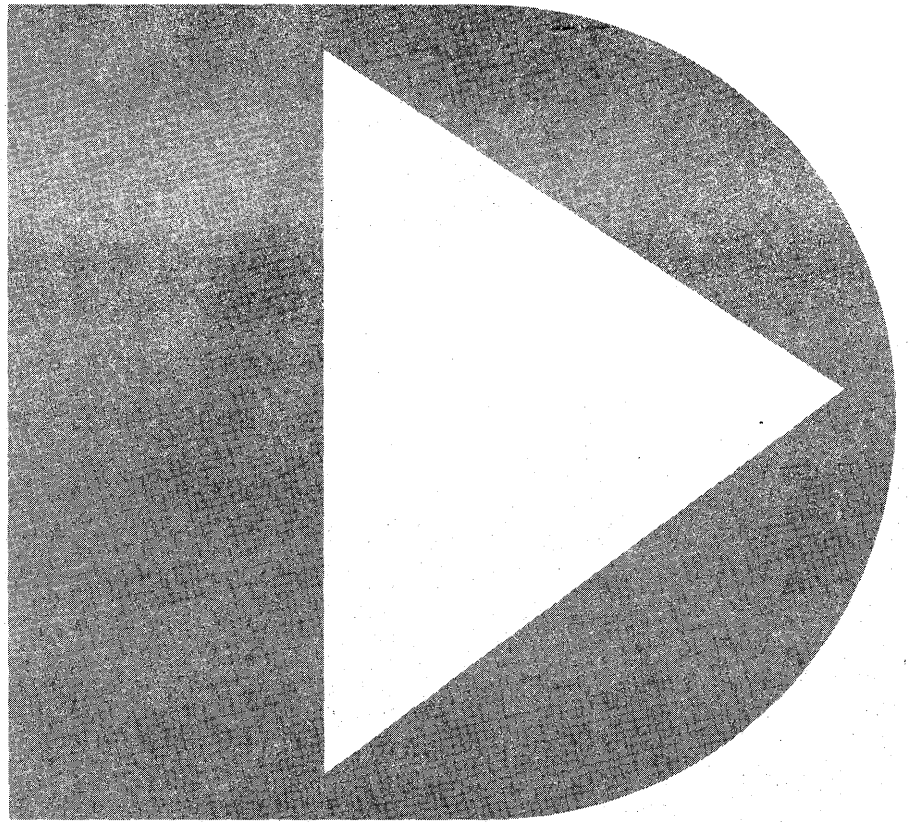


Datapoint

Program Users Guide



DSCRIBE I
SCRIBE I User's Guide Addendum
August 23, 1973

DSCRIBE I contains all of the text processing features of SCRIBE I. The SCRIBE I, version 1, User's Guide is also the primary guide for DSCRIBE I, however, rather than cassette storage of documents, DSCRIBE I processes documents stored on a disk cartridge.

To use DSCRIBE, load the Disk Operating System, and place the DSCRIBE object tape in the front deck. Type the DOS command:

```
IN DSCRIBE/CMD
```

This will cause the DSCRIBE program to be transferred from the cassette to the disk cartridge. When the READY message appears the transfer is complete. DSCRIBE may now be used by typing:

```
DSCRIBE [filespec1],[filespec2]
```

where the filespecs (DOS file specifications, each consisting of a name/extension) are optional. If the extension is omitted from a file specification, the extension 'TXT' is assumed.

The names specified by filespec1 and filespec2 should correspond to text files either created by DOSGEDIT (EDIT/CMD), or created by the cassette program GEDIT and SIN'd to the disk. For example, typing:

```
DSCRIBE LETTER,ADDRESS
```

causes DSCRIBE to look for files on the disk called LETTER/TXT and ADDRESS/TXT. The first file, LETTER, is considered logical file 1 and is subsequently referred to by the standard SCRIBE commands +F1, +R1 and +A1. Similarly, ADDRESS is logical file 2 and is controlled by the +F2, +R2 and +A2 commands.

Disk files may also be specified after DSCRIBE is running. For example, if DSCRIBE is executed by typing simply:

```
DSCRIBE
```

no disk files are opened. Using any of the file accessing commands (+F1, +F2, +R1, +R2, +A1 or +A2) causes an error and the DOS is re-loaded.

To specify a file once DSCRIBE is running, the commands +D1<filespec1> and +D2<filespec2> must be used. For example, when DSCRIBE displays the 'KEYIN' message, the operator types:

```
+D1LETTER+D2ADDRESS
```

to open the files LETTER/TXT and ADDRESS/TXT. These commands may also be used at any time to change the text files being processed.

A logical file (1 or 2) may assign another file to the same logical file number as long as the commands to open and to transfer control are on a single line (i.e., appear on one screen line when the file is generated by the editor). For example, chapters of a book may be kept in separate files on the disk for ease of editing. These files can be automatically linked to each other by terminating each file with the commands:

```
+D1<next chapter file name>+F1
```

The user would type in the commands to specify the first chapter as file 1 (+D1CHAPT1+F1) and subsequent chapters would automatically be printed.

Since multiple files are available to the disk user, a document may be generated by selecting a series of files each containing a paragraph or inclusion necessary to the finished document. To accomplish this document 'composition' the user must generate a small control file similar to this example:

```
+PN
+D2PARA1+F2 *
+D2PARA3+F2
+D2PARA4+F2
+PG
```

The individual paragraph files may contain any standard DSCRIBE I commands (including the *** and +FO commands to allow operator input); and the file should be terminated by the +F1 command to return control to the 'master' file. The following is a sample paragraph file:

```
+pp1Mr.
+**CUSTOMER NAME?
+fO,
this paragraph will be included if the user selects it
through his master file. All margin and paper and printer
conditions have been set and, if this paragraph
causes a change, it should also reset those parameters.
+f1
```

All printers (local [+LD], remote [+RD], selectric [+SD], and 2741 [+ED or +XD]) are available through the commands described in the SCRIBE I User's Guide. In addition, the servo printer may be used by typing the command +DD. When DSCRIBE is first executed, the CRT screen (not the selectric typewriter) is assumed as the output device.

The command to switch the output to the servo printer is +DDnn where nn is an absolute margin position (like moving the paper guide on a typewriter). When the command is executed, the printer will move nn spaces to the right of the rest position and all subsequent printing will return to this position.

Commands are available in both SCRIBE I and DSCRIBE I to define the number of lines per page. The +BL command sets the number of lines in the body of the page (default 53 lines). The +HL command sets the number of lines in the heading space at the top of the page (default 3 lines). DSCRIBE I has an additional command, +FLnnn, to set the footing length, i.e., the number of lines at the bottom of the page (default 7 lines).

Page numbers (if specified for the bottom of the page) appear in the fourth line of the footing, and, heading text (if provided) appears in the first line of the header space. Thus, if a footing length of less than four is specified, page numbers will be suppressed; and, header length of zero will suppress the header text.

In addition, the conditional page skip command, +PS, has been changed (from SCRIBE I) to cause the current page to be ejected if there are less than the specified number of printable lines remaining on the page. (SCRIBE I considered the number of physical lines remaining and did not take line spacing, +LS, into account.)

Several new commands involving the tabstops have been implemented. The typewrite tab, +TT, command tabs to the next tabstop to the right of the current position (rather than the next tabstop in the list).

Commands to set the margin to a tabstop are available. Set right margin to tab, +RT, sets the right margin to the next tabstop. However, as in the +LM and +RM commands, the margin is not changed until the current line has been printed. To force an immediate margin change, the +PL command may be use. The command, +LT, sets the left margin to the next tabstop. Both of these commands cause the tabstop indicator to be incremented. Thus, if tabs are set at 10, 20, 40, 60 and 80, and the margins are to be changed to 10 and 80, the commands +LT+TB+TB+TB+RT+PL will effect the margin change. Using these commands enables the user to

change tabstops without also being forced to change corresponding margin commands.

One final command, +OS, has been implemented to facilitate returning to the Disk Operating System. When the +OS command is typed, the DOS is re-loaded and the message:

DATAPOINT CORPORATION'S DISK OPERATING SYSTEM VERSION 1.2

READY

will appear on the screen.