PART 16

THE DOS/BATCH EBCDIC CONVERSION PROGRAM

EBASCI

PART 16

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION TO EBASCI

The EBASCI program is a DOS/BATCH utility program that accepts input from magtape in EBCDIC[1] format, converts it to ASCII[2] code, and places the converted information onto a suitable output device.

EBASCI accepts input from magtape only; the default input device is magtape unit Ø (MTØ). If another magtape unit is to be used as the input device, it must be assigned the logical name IN. For example, if magtape unit 2 is to be the input device, the following command must be entered:

    $AS MT2:,IN

The EBASCI output device can be any device capable of accepting output. The default output device is RK disk unit 1 (DK1). If another device is to be used as the output device, it must be assigned the logical name OUT. For example, if RP disk unit 3 is to be the output device, the following command must be entered:

    $AS DP3:,OUT

The input magtape can contain labels, or it can be unlabeled. If the tape contains labels, they must be ANSI standard, as follows:

1. Both HDR1 and HDR2 labels must precede the file to be converted.
2. Tape marks must be present after each HDR label, after the data, and after the EOF labels.
3. An optional VOL label may appear immediately after the load point; however, the VOL label is ignored.

Maximum block size allowed is 8ØØØ bytes; maximum record size allowed is also 8ØØØ bytes. EBASCI can be used with fixed- or variable-length records.

The input tape is automatically rewound at the start of the program; it is not rewound again during the program run unless it is necessary to do so to find a specified file. In this manner, files can be copied successively from a magtape without rewind delay between files.

If a new tape is to be used as input during a program execution, mount the new tape and type CTRL/C at the keyboard (echoed as ↑C). Then type RESTART and press the RETURN key. The EBASCI program then restarts at step 1 (described under Chapter 16-2, Operating Procedures).

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[1]Extended Binary Coded Decimal Interchange Code
[2]American Standard Code for Information Interchange

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CHAPTER 2

OPERATING PROCEDURES

The EBASCI program is called, loaded, and run through the standard DOS/BATCH RUN command, as follows:

    $RUN EBASCI

After this command is entered, the EBASCI program identifies itself and begins a series of typeouts to which the user must respond. When a YES or NO answer is called for, any character combination beginning with the letter Y is taken to mean YES: any other response is taken to mean NO. These typeouts and possible responses are described in the steps below:

1. EBASCI types:

    DOES TAPE HAVE LABELS?

    User responds YES or NO, as appropriate, and presses the RETURN key.

2. EBASCI types:

    POSITION:

    User responds by typing a number specifying the file to be read: 1 denotes the first file on the tape, 2 denotes the second file, and so on. Typing Ø indicates that the user has completed the run; EBASCI then exits.

3a. If the input tape contains labels, EBASCI positions the tape at the HDR blocks for the specified file, and displays the information (file name from HDR1, record size and recording mode from HDR2) at the keyboard, as follows:

            FILE NAME: xxxxxx
            ⎰FIXED-LENGTH   ⎱ RECORDS
            ⎱VARIABLE-LENGTH⎰
            RECORD SIZE: nnn
            OK?

    The user should inspect the output to determine that the file name (xxxxxx), recording mode, and record size (nnn) are correct, and respond by typing YES and pressing the RETURN key. If the information is not correct for the desired file, the user types NO and presses the RETURN key. EBASCI then cycles back to step 2 above.

3b. If the input tape does not contain labels, EBASCI positions the tape to
the desired file and types:

FILE NAME:

The user responds by typing the desired file name (from 1 to 6 characters)
and pressing the RETURN key. EBASCI then types:

FIXED-LENGTH RECORDS?

The user responds by typing YES or NO, as appropriate, and pressing
the RETURN key. EBASCI then types:

RECORD SIZE:

The user responds by typing the size of the logical records (in decimal
bytes) for the file and pressing the RETURN key.

4. EBASCI types:

DO YOU WANT ASCII TRANSLATION?

The user responds by typing YES or NO, as appropriate, and pressing
the RETURN key. If the user responds NO, EBASCI converts ANSI standard
ASCII tapes to DOS formatted tapes.

5. If the user response to step 4 was YES, EBASCI types:

DO YOU WANT CR/LF?

The user responds by typing YES if a carriage return/line feed combination
is desired after each logical record; otherwise he responds NO.

6. EBASCI processes the file, and cycles back to step 2.

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