

INGRES for PCs  
INGRES/PCLINK Release Notes  
Release 1.2  
October 1988

This document describes the new production release of Relational Technology's INGRES/PCLINK product. All problems should be reported immediately to Relational Technology's Technical Support Group.

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Installation Notes and Addenda

The install program used for installation on a hard disk installs PCLINK in a \PCLINK directory on your chosen disk drive. It creates the directory if it does not exist or overwrites the files in that directory if it does already exist. If you want to use multiple versions of PCLINK, and you already have PCLINK 1.0 installed in a \PCLINK directory, you must copy the files from this directory into another directory (for example, \PCLINK10) BEFORE running the installation program. Otherwise, the old PCLINK files will be overwritten by the new files. See Chapter 3 of the *INGRES/PCLINK Manual* for the new installation procedures.

### Changes that Affect Existing Macros

The following changes to PCLINK 1.2 affect existing macros:

1. Changed "Multiplan" → "SYLK."
2. Changed "VisiCalc" → "Interchange."
3. Changed "End-of-Line" and "EOL" "Yes/No" → "Transfer Text/Binary."
4. Added "19200" to Network Speed menu (ambiguous with "110").
5. Added "Quit" to Column Operations menu.
6. Changed VQL Column Operations menu choices to be sticky.
7. Added "Format" to Auto-Load Configuration menu.
8. Added "INGRES/PC" (ambiguous with "Interchange").
9. Eliminated "Host" from VQL main menu.
10. Changed special macro key "INQUIRE" → "QUERY."
11. Eliminated special macro key "STEP."
12. Note that changes to the flow of menu screens may cause old macros to stop working.

### Changes that Affect Existing Keymaps

The following changes to PCLINK 1.2 affect existing keymaps:

1. Changed PC key name "Return" → "CR."
2. Changed PC key name "Backtab" → "Bktab."
3. Changed the keymap file, VT100.MAP. See Appendix F of the *INGRES/PCLINK Manual* for the new key definitions in the VT100.MAP keymap.

## Changes that Affect Existing Query Templates

The following changes to PCLINK 1.2 affect existing Query Templates:

1. Added new revision field to header record.
2. Changed letter code for Integer data type  
'N' → 'I.'
3. Changed letter code for Scientific data type  
'F' → 'S.'
4. Changed letter code for Text data type 'S' → 'T.'
5. Changed letter code for Time data type 'T' → 'H.'
6. Changed letter code for Currency data type  
'A' → 'C.'
7. Changed letter code for Fixed data type  
'E' → 'F.'
8. Changed letter code for Blank data type  
'X' → 'B.'
9. Old templates can be converted by using the utility TPLCONV.EXE. The syntax for this utility is:

```
tplconv tplfn
```

This will convert tplfn.tpl to the new format and will save the original version as tplfn.tp0.

## Other Notes and Warnings

- o Configuration files from PCLINK 1.0 may not be used with PCLINK 1.2. For version 1.2, use the pmlink.cnf that is supplied with the product to recreate them. If you create a separate installation for PCLINK 1.2, be sure the pathname specified in the 1.2 configuration files uses the appropriate directory name.
- o The SYLK output file format uses the double quote (") character to delineate a text string. For this reason, text strings from a Host database must not contain the double quote character when generating a SYLK output file.

- o The text of a row selection criterion displayed by the Criterion List command may be truncated if the text exceeds the width of the pop-up box or if the criterion is part of a combination criterion, and thus indented on the display. The full criterion remains in effect, and governs row selection from the Host database.
- o Configuration parameters that may be set to long text strings (such as the autodial phone number) may be truncated on the Configuration Status display, if they exceed the amount of space available for displaying their values. To see the current setting of such a configuration parameter, use the configuration menu commands normally used to set the parameter. The current value is displayed as the default value when PCLINK prompts for entry of a new value. Press [Esc] to return to the menus and retain the current value of the option.
- o Old templates can be converted using the TPLCONV.EXE utility. See notes under "Changes that Affect Existing Query Templates."
- o Sites should note that PCLINK use with Ethernet is not yet supported.

## Corrections to PCLINK 1.2

The following corrections and enhancements have been made to PCLINK 1.2:

- o Added TE support for VT100 escape sequences for Cursor On (ESC [ ? 25 h) and Cursor Off (ESC [ ? 25 l).
- o Added TE support for ANSI color attributes with ESC [ # m, for # from 30-37 and 40-47.
- o Added support for "\b" and "\B" (send a break to the Host system) to the multi-step automatic login sequence feature.
- o PCLINK no longer changes the default protections on Host without changing them back.
- o PCLINK no longer fails with IBM/CMS due to prompt character.
- o Bad messages no longer appear in PCLINK stand-alone.
- o Added support for distributed databases with the /d suffix.
- o There is no longer a Network I/O Error with a bad database name.
- o Ability to connect to INGRES/STAR distributed databases
- o PCLINK works correctly on VMS 4.3.
- o The File Manager now correctly handles long file names.
- o VT100 key mapping works correctly.
- o Added check for ING\_HOME variable if INGRES DIR not set.
- o Large file sizes are listed correctly in File Manager.
- o Retrieves on money fields over \$10 million no longer problematic.
- o Using type/page no longer causes Terminal Emulator to fail.
- o VQL no longer returns asterisks for money and float fields.

- o Commands sent by a file using TE 'send' are no longer ignored.
- o Added ability to run a command following automatic login.
- o Can now specify extension for VQL output file.
- o Local echo no longer fails on half duplex lines.
- o Terminal Emulator screen is no longer incorrect after doing type/page.
- o There are no longer excessive error messages on Network I/O error.
- o User name is no longer limited to 9 characters.
- o Text fields are no longer padded with two extra spaces in VQL.
- o Dates no longer retrieved as blanks if II\_DATE\_FORMAT=MULTINATIONAL.
- o Replacing files using PCLINK works correctly.
- o VQL works as intended with INGRES/NET.
- o INGRES/MENU connects correctly to VQL.
- o Can now set directly to '.' when run from root directory.
- o PCLINK correctly resets cursor after exiting.
- o Added search path for locating configuration files: first current PC working directory, then PCLINKDIR; useful in LAN server environments.
- o Added support for multi-step automatic login sequence.
- o Added PCLINKSHELL environment variable for alternate shell/CLI (Host).
- o Added PCLINKMONEYFMT environment variable for currency precision (Host).
- o Added a "Format" menu choice to the Auto-Load configuration menu. The subformats are output format specific. Changed Auto-Load Configuration status display to include sub-format of the major output format. Changed help accordingly. (Macros beware.)

- o Added support for variable column width text output (Configuration VQL Auto-Load Format Fixed/Variable).
- o Added support for "/M:" command line option, used to specify a macro file to be executed upon startup. Use of /M: to specify a startup macro overrides the presence of an auto-execute macro such as AUTOPCLINK.
- o Added VQL message "Loading application" before auto-load for slow floppy-based loads.
- o Changed VQL to pass the name, directory, and drive of the output file just generated as the first, second, and third arguments to a batch auto-load program, respectively.
- o Added Host-PCLINK "-v" command line option, for full page of version and configuration information.
- o Changed VQL to get Host directory after set directory failure upon entry.
- o Changed VQL Database Selection to not perform table selection automatically if there are no tables.
- o Changed Host-PCLINK INGRES module to trap INGRES backend startup errors on invalid database name.
- o Added "Quit" choice to the Column operations menu, and made each of the other choices sticky. (Macros beware.)
- o Changed menu choices "End-of-Line Yes/No" - "Transfer Text/Binary." Changed associated help screens to reflect new file transfer concepts. (Macros beware.)
- o Added FM version number support for file pattern matching.
- o Added support for enhanced IBM keyboard BIOS (also, now performs keyboard flush upon entry).
- o Added support for VAXmate keyboard and BIOS.
- o Changed standard VT100.MAP to correspond to new keyboard driver.

o Eliminated keys from list of support PC keys:

{SHIFT-MINUS}	{SHIFT-LEFT}	{SHIFT-PLUS}
{SHIFT-CENTER}	{SHIFT-DEL}	{SHIFT-RIGHT}
{SHIFT-INS}	{SHIFT-HOME}	{SHIFT-END}
{SHIFT-UP}	{SHIFT-DOWN}	{SHIFT-PGUP}
{SHIFT-PGDN}		

o Changed names of environment variables (Host):

SPOOLER	→	PCLINKSPOOLER
FLOATFMT	→	PCLINKFLOATFMT
LOGGING	→	PCLINKLOGGING

- o VQL QUERY status indicator no longer clears during table selection.
- o FM File View no longer displays first lines of file after "Insufficient memory" error.
- o TE no longer displays MENU mode indicator after clearing "Keymap does not exist" error.
- o Invalid keys are now properly ignored by keyboard input routine.
- o Can now specify fully qualified .CNF filename if PCLINKDIR is set.
- o VQL now accepts RAB character as Text Output Delimiter.
- o VQL no longer ignores row selection criteria in Lookup window.
- o VQL now detects invalid auto-load drive or directory name.
- o VQL output generation no longer fails on NULL numeric data fields.
- o VQL output generation now uses double quote instead of single quote for DIF quote character.
- o VQL output generation now truncates trailing blanks for SYLK and DIF.
- o TE no longer ignores VT100 escape sequence: ESC Z; now identifies as VT102.
- o Host-PCLINK packet initialization failure now resets terminal characteristics.
- o Host-PCLINK now resets default file protections upon normal exit.



- o Host-PCLINK now resets terminal characteristics (echo, tabs, etc.) upon Ctrl-C interrupt.
- o Divide overflow no longer occurs when multi-column list displaying one wide column.
- o FM Host View in Text mode no longer hangs on binary files, or on files with a record of length 2000 or more.
- o File transfer with Data-Bits set to Intl-8 no longer hangs with Network I/O error on binary file. (Note that 8-bit transfer (Intl-8) will still not work if host is stripping characters on input (stty istrip).)

### Known Problems

- o The PCLINK 1.2 conversion utility tplconv.exe cannot determine if a template file has been converted to a new-format template file. If the file is inadvertently converted again, it will be converted into an unusable format.