



DICTATOR

There is a need in a test system to do test organization and book-keeping. In the TODS system there is a librarian which serves to keep track of everything on the disk. The DICTATOR routine serves the purpose of keeping track of test routines and aiding programmers by assigning FRN, DRN, and fixture codes for his programs. This feature not only keeps our test programs in order but saves the programmers time searching for a place to put their program and an unused fixture code. The data file established by the DICTATOR is also used by many other routines in the system for data gathering, listing, locating, sorting, and test calling functions. Because of the fact that other software routines use the data, caution must be used if a feature is added or the DICTATOR software is changed in anyway. Table 1 shows the structure of the DICTATOR data file.

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DATA

The data kept by the DICTATOR is all the pertinent data for the location and organization of test programs in the system. When the data is read into BASIC COM area there is two double dimensioned arrays and two single dimensioned arrays. The arrays are large enough to accommodate data for 200 units. The number of digits reserved for each unit is 34. The structure of the way data is kept is the first digit in each of the double dimensioned arrays is the index for a unit. The COM area is A (200,4), B(200,30), E(21), G(21). If data for a particular unit is stored in location 1, then A(1,1) through A(1,4), is 4 digits of data for that unit and B(1,1) - B(1,30) is 30 digits of data for the same unit. The area reserved is 4 + 30 or 34 digits. The other two arrays are used to keep track of units that are deleted so their codes or storage areas can be reused. See Table 1 for a description of what and where data is kept.

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OPERATION

The DICTATOR is a BASIC program stored in PRN 404. The program is structured such that the person wishing to use it doesn't need to know a lot about its operation. When the program is called and run the first message displayed is "DICTATOR?". If a "?" is input a list of functions is displayed showing the two letter code to call them. The operator then types the two letters for the function he wants to perform and answers the questions asked of him as the function is executed. At the end of the job the program returns to its initial state, "DICTATOR?", waiting for the next command.

NOTE: Data is changed and stored in core only as long as the program is running. To store new data on the disk as permanent, ST for a stop command must be given.

As the note above indicates, the DICTATOR data is read from the disk into core memory and as the program is running changes or additions are not written back on the disk. The normal mode of operation is to call the program and make all the changes required then give the "STOP" command. At this time the data as it appears in core is written on the disk. If a CTPl A or CTPl is executed before the stop command is given, the disk memory is not changed. Any data that may have been changed in core is lost.

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