

SECTION 4: THE INTEGRAL EDITOR

4.1: Introduction to the Editor.

The editor supplied with all versions of Hisoft HP4T is a simple, line-based editor designed to work with all 386 operating systems while maintaining ease of use and the ability to edit programs quickly and efficiently.

Text is held in memory in a compacted form; the number of leading spaces in a line is held as one character at the beginning of the line and all HP4T Reserved Words are tokenised into one character. This leads to a typical reduction in text size of 25%.

NOTE: throughout this section the DELETE key is referred to instead of the control code CX. It appears more natural to do this.

The editor is entered automatically when HP4T is loaded from tape and displays the message:

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followed by the editor prompt '>'.
>

In response to the prompt you may enter a command line of the following format:

C N1, N2, S1, S2

followed by a RETURN where:

C is the command to be executed (see Section 4.2 below).
N1 is a number in the range 1 - 32767 inclusive.
N2 is a number in the range 1 - 32767 inclusive.
S1 is a string of characters with a maximum length of 20.
S2 is a string of characters with a maximum length of 20.

The comma is used to separate the various arguments (although this can be changed - see the 'S' command) and spaces are ignored, except within the strings. None of the arguments are mandatory although some of the commands (e.g. the 'Delete' command) will not proceed without N1 and N2 being specified. The editor remembers the previous numbers and strings that you entered and uses these former values, where applicable, if you do not specify a particular argument within the command line. The values of N1 and N2 are initially set to 10 and the strings are initially empty. If you enter an illegal command line such as F=,100,HELLO then the line will be ignored and the message 'Parson?' displayed - you should then retype the line correctly e.g. F1,100,HELLO. This error message will also be displayed if the length of S2 exceeds 20, if the length of S1 is greater than 20 then any excess characters are ignored.

Commands may be entered in upper or lower case.

While entering a command line, all the relevant control functions described in Section 0.0 may be used e.g. CX to delete to the beginning of the line.

The following sub-section details the various commands available within the editor - note that wherever an argument is enclosed by the symbols '< >' then that argument must be present for the command to proceed.