

FIDO-FAM  
FIDO BBS File Area Maintenance Utility  
User Manual

Copyright (c) 1986, 1987 Dennis Glaeser All rights reserved.

3016 Country Knoll Dr.	MDC - RCC BBS
St. Charles, MO 63303	Fido 100/10
(314) 928-3525 (voice)	(314) 232-6881

If you find this program useful, your comments, criticisms suggestions, and/or contributions are solicited.

Free distribution for non-commercial use is permitted.

FIDO is a registered trademark of Tom Jennings

## Table of Contents

1 Overview and Syntax	1
2 Credits	1
3 System Requirements	2
3.1 Local Operation	2
3.1.1 Colors	2
3.2 Remote Operation	3
3.2.1 Host Serial Driver	3
3.3 Required Files and Paths	4
3.3.1 Location of System Files	4
3.3.2 Path Checks	4
3.3.3 FIDO-FAM Overlay Files	5
4 Command Line Parameters	6
5 SEND Files	7
5.1 Types of SEND Files	7
5.1.1 Single Send File	8
5.1.2 Multiple Send Files	8
5.2 Batch SEND	8
5.3 Interactive SEND	9
6 File Area Selection Screen	10
7 File Area Editor Operation	10
7.1 Cursor and Function Keys	11
7.2 Cursor and Screen Movement	12
7.3 Commands to Mark/Unmark Lines	12
7.4 File Area Editing Commands	14
7.4.1 - A - Abandon/Adopt the file(s)	14
7.4.2 - C - Send a Command to DOS	14
7.4.3 - E - Line Editor	15
7.4.4 - F - Find	16
7.4.5 - G - Regenerate the Display	16

7.4.6 - I, Ins, 0 - Insert a comment	16
7.4.7 - J - Jump	17
7.4.8 - K, Del, . - Kill/Delete Line(s)	17
7.4.9 - M - Move/Copy lines	17
7.4.10 - O - Overwrite this Comment	18
7.4.11 - Q - Quit the Editor	18
7.4.12 - R - Rename the File	18
7.4.13 - S - Sort files	19
7.4.14 - T - Date the file description	19

FIDO-FAM Version 3.0

7.4.15 - V - View a File	20
7.4.16 - # - Move current line to another area	20
7.4.17 - ? - Display a 'help' screen	20
7.4.18 CTRL-A - Adopt all orphans	20
7.4.19 CTRL-D - Remove Date from Comment(s)	20
7.4.20 CTRL-E - Edit DIR.BBS	21
7.4.21 CTRL-T - Touch (update File Date & Time)	21
8 Backup of .BBS Files	21
9 Change History	22
9.1 Version 2.0	22
9.2 Version 3.0	22

## 1 Overview and Syntax

FIDO-FAM is designed to be a FIDO BBS File Area Maintenance utility. It allows the user to quickly and easily review, modify, and coordinate the files in any File area with the appropriate FILES.BBS file.

This utility uses SYSTEMnn.BBS files to define the directories to use, and manages the files named: FILES.BBS, DIR.BBS, FILES.BAK, and DIR.BAK in each file area. FIDO-FAM will work with any system which uses these files as defined by FIDO (version 11w) specs.

Syntax : FIDO-FAM [a  
[b] [d] [i] [n] [r] [path to system files] [k] [SEND nn  
[nn..[nn]] TO filename]}

Note: any command line parameter may be prefixed with either '-' or '/' if desired. For example, the following command line parameters are equivalent:

d -d /d

Environment strings FAMOPT and FAMOVL may also be used to communicate to FIDO-FAM. The FAMOPT string can contain any command line option EXCEPT the SEND command. Commands may be added via the command line also. In the case of the 'path to system files', the command line argument will

override the FAMOPT value. If a FAMOVL string is found, it must be the path which contains FIDO-FAM's overlay files.

FIDO-FAM operates on any MSDOS system. It may be run remotely, as long as the remote terminal/computer responds to ANSI terminal commands.

## 2 Credits

The original design of FIDO-FAM was based on a program called SHUFFLE written by Robert Lederman (Met-Chem Fido 16/42).

The current functionality and user interface of FIDO-FAM has been developed from comments and requests by these individuals:

1 (c) 1987 Dennis Glaeser

FIDO-FAM Version 3.0

Name	Net/Node	Location
Ben Baker	100/76	South Roxana, Illinois
Jim Booker	120/24	Detroit, Michigan
Randy Bush	105/6	Portland, Oregon
Gene Clayton	12/4	Lihui, Kauai
Patrick McDonald	109/657	Davidsonville, Maryland
Terry Mueller	100/10	St. Louis, Missouri
Kurt Reisler	109/74	Falls Church, Virginia
Jack Rousseau	260/120	Buffalo, New York
Gee Wong	107/312	East Brunswick, New Jersey

Quoting the immortal words of Frank and Ed:

"and we thank you for your support"

Version 3.0 has some features to support the OPUS BBS. Both FIDO and OPUS use similar system files, which is the reason the added support is possible. Future support of FIDO and/or OPUS systems will depend on their independent changes in the future. For the rest of this document references to FIDO imply similar reference to OPUS, as appropriate.

In order to support both local and remote operation, all console output is done through DOS. A frequent 'enhancement' request is faster screen displays when running locally. For a number of reasons (beyond the scope of this discussion) it is difficult to write one program which can both run remotely and do fast screen display locally. Remote operation is a heavily used feature of this program, and at this time more important than

fast local display.

### 3 System Requirements

#### 3.1 Local Operation

FIDO-FAM can be run locally on any computer running MSDOS or PCDOS 2.x or higher, and which has an ANSI terminal or device driver installed. For example, an IBM PC (or compatible) may be used as long as an ANSI device driver (ANSI.SYS, or FANSI-CONSOLE) is installed. Any computer whose terminal emulates a VT100/102, such as the DEC Rainbow, may also be used.

##### 3.1.1 Colors

FIDO-FAM normally uses color in all of its displays. A command line switch ('N') will totally disable the issuance of color

commands. Currently, the colors used are not user selectable (a potential later enhancement).

Some users have complained that FIDO-FAM does not restore colors to their original settings when it exits. If you have that concern, read on.

The ANSI device specification does not provide a means to query the system about 'current' colors. Therefore it is impossible to generically restore the original colors upon exit from any program using the ANSI device driver for color control.

FIDO-FAM will restore colors on an IBM-PC or compatible through the use of BIOS calls, if the 'R' command line parameter is used. Remember that this can only work on a local machine. It has no effect on the remote user's terminal.

There is a better way! Since any system using FIDO-FAM must have an ANSI device installed, there is a powerful, easy, and safe way to restore your favorite colors after ANY program has run. Furthermore it works ALL THE TIME, running local or remote! The secret: put color control commands in the DOS PROMPT. Refer to your DOS documentation on the Prompt Command, and ANSI.SYS for more details.

## 3.2 Remote Operation

FIDO-FAM can be run remotely. This allows authorized users, typically the Sysop or File Area Managers (assistant Sysops), to do file area maintenance from home. The remote terminal, or modem program, being used MUST respond to the ANSI terminal control strings for:

- Cursor Positioning
- Clear Screen
- Clear to End of Line
- Colors - Note: all displays are designed to work even if color is ignored.

An 80 x 24 display is used, to support remote users who don't have 25 line screens.

### 3.2.1 Host Serial Driver

In order to allow remote programs to be run, the Host machine must allow the program to do its I/O through the Communications port, instead of the local Console and Keyboard. There are basically two ways to do this: 1) the CTTY command, or 2) use

redirection on the command line when calling the program. In either case the redirection goes through a Serial Device driver.

In order to work without limitations, FIDO-FAM requires a Serial Device driver which responds correctly to an Input Status request (is a char waiting to be read). Generally, only drivers which buffer input will respond as needed.

In plainer English: During the execution of many commands, FIDO-FAM checks with DOS to see if a keypress is waiting to be read. This is done to support local Function Keys (on IBM compatibles) and to allow repetitive cursor movements before updating the screen display. Some device drivers respond to a keypress check with a 'yes', and then proceed to wait until a key is pressed!! This makes using FIDO-FAM very difficult.

A special command line switch has been provided (the 'K' command) which disables the keypress checks. This allows the

program to operate as expected, BUT repetitive cursor commands will be very sluggish because the screen will be updated after every cursor movement. If the 'k' option is used when running locally on PC compatibles, the function & arrow keys will not work either.

Drivers known to work without problem are: the built-in DOS drivers COM1 and COM2, and the FOSLAUX driver.

### 3.3 Required Files and Paths

#### 3.3.1 Location of System Files

FIDO-FAM defaults to using the current path to find the system files (SYSTEMn.BBS). Optionally, a path to the system files may be entered on the command line (discussed below). If an error occurs while attempting to change to that directory, the current directory is used. If no system files are found, an error message is printed and the program halts with ERRORLEVEL set to 1.

FIDO-FAM can handle up to 99 system files, the max FIDO supports. The system file areas need not be numbered contiguously (FIDO requires this but OPUS does not).

#### 3.3.2 Path Checks

FIDO-FAM verifies the existence of the path for each file area by momentarily changing to the specified drive/directory. The current directory is preserved on each drive checked. It is VERY IMPORTANT to be sure that ALL DRIVES ARE LOADED/INSTALLED. If an

area uses a floppy drive, or a RAM disk, those devices MUST respond if queried through DOS. Invalid areas (if any) are displayed on the first screen, and are not included in the areas available for editing. This requirement is not extremely important while running locally, because the user can physically correct any problems encountered (ie: put a disk in the floppy drive and/or close the door). However remote users may (will) hang the system.

Since these same areas are being used by the BBS, the chances for problems are normally non-existent. However a Sysop may have 'scratch' areas not visible to users, or may have recently



modified some area paths. These checks will assure that every area available for editing truly exists.

### 3.3.3 FIDO-FAM Overlay Files

In order to conserve memory, FIDO-FAM has been overlaid. The executable code resides in 4 files:

```
FIDO-FAM.COM    - the Main Program
FIDO-FAM.000    \
FIDO-FAM.001    > Overlay Files
FIDO-FAM.002    /
```

The Overlay Files must all be in the same directory, but that directory can be different than the location of the main program, if desired. FIDO-FAM looks for its overlays in:

1. the current directory
2. the directory specified by the FAMOVR environment string (see below)
3. any directory specified on the PATH

The FAMOVR environment string is defined using the DOS SET command:

```
SET FAMOVR=STRING
```

where STRING is the subdirectory containing the overlay files. If a FAMOVR environment string is found, the overlays MUST be in that subdirectory. The PATH is searched only if no FAMOVR environment is found.

If the file FIDO-FAM.000 cannot be located, an error message is displayed and the program aborts with ERRORLEVEL = 2.

If the program ever aborts with the following message:  
Run-time error F0, PC=xxxx

Program aborted  
this means that one of the overlay files could not be loaded for some reason. (Some day I'll write a fancy critical error handler, but for now TURBO's cryptic messages will have to suffice.)

#### 4 Command Line Parameters

FIDO-FAM uses these single character command line parameters:  
(must be separated by a space if more than one used)

Command	Description
A	Auto Adopt mode. Upon entry to a file area, Orphans are automatically added to FILES.BBS (See also the CTRL-A command of the file area editor).
B	No Backups. This option defeats the creation of .BAK files for FILES.BBS and DIR.BBS
D	Show File Date (the way OPUS does).
I	make Insert mode the default when editing strings (otherwise Overwrite mode will be the default).
N	No ANSI Color commands are used.
R	Restore original colors for PCDOS machines only. This feature uses Interrupt 10 (hex) to determine the default colors at startup, so they can be restored at termination. IF YOUR MACHINE IS NOT AN IBM PC OR TRUE COMPATIBLE, THIS OPTION MAY CAUSE UNPREDICTABLE RESULTS.
K	Disable the check for 'character ready' (See the Serial Device Driver discussion above)

Any multi-char input on the command line, except that which begins with the keyword 'SEND', is interpreted as the path where the SYSTEMn.BBS files are to be found. If unable to change to that directory, the program will attempt to use the current directory.

The keyword SEND is discussed below under BATCH SEND.

Any command line parameter may be preceded by either a dash or a slash. If multiple command line parms are used, the prefix

chars (or lack thereof) may be mixed at will. For example:  
d b r and /d b -r and -d /b r  
would all produce the same results (show file dates, no backups,  
restore colors)

An environment string named FAMOPT may also be used to invoke FIDO-FAM options EXCEPT the SEND option. The FAMOPT string has the same format as the command line. For example:

```
SET FAMOPT=d \bbsroot
```

would make file dates shown and use the path \BBSROOT for the system files.

The FAMOPT string is processed first, then the command line. Since most options are simply turned on, FIDO-FAM will turn the sum of both on. However if both FAMOPT and the command line specify a path, the command line path will override the one in FAMOPT. Also remember that the SEND option MUST be invoked on the command line.

## 5 SEND Files

A SEND file is a copy of FILES.BBS with the File Size, and optionally File Date included. It is a file 'snapshot' of an Area's contents, and is also what a user will see when Fido (or Opus) displays a Files list for the Area (assuming no changes). Missing files appear, but the file will not contain any Orphan files, nor any data beyond the logical end-of-file (a comment starting with '@').

### 5.1 Types of SEND Files

A SEND command will contain a filename and a list of Areas (syntaxes are described below). FIDO-FAM will create either a single file which concatenates the Areas together, or multiple files, one in each Area. In either case, the first line of any Area in a SEND file contains:

```
Area nn <first line of DIR.BBS>
```

This identifies individual Send-Files and provides a convenient header for each Area in a multiple-area Send-File.

The current SEND File file itself cannot appear in the file

listing, because it has not been created/closed! If a previous version of the SEND File file existed, that old file size (and date) will appear in the new file.

#### 5.1.1 Single Send File

A single file will be created if the file name (including path if desired) of the SEND file is a legal DOS name. If more than one Area is specified, the Areas will appear in the file in the same order they were entered in the SEND command.

#### 5.1.2 Multiple Send Files

If the filename specified for the SEND file is in the form:

\*\filename

(Note the wildcard 'path' which is an illegal DOS format.) FIDO-FAM will put a SEND file in EACH AREA specified in the SEND command. Existing files are overwritten.

If the Auto-Adopt mode (command line option) is in effect, Orphan files will be Adopted for this operation. However, if the file contains an end-of-file comment, the Adopted Orphans will not appear in the SEND file because they are appended to the end of the data - past the eof-comment. FILES.BBS is never changed by a SEND operation (even if the SEND file contains Auto-Adopted Orphans).

#### 5.2 Batch SEND

If the keyword SEND is found on the command line, FIDO-FAM operates in a Batch SEND mode, rather than interactively. The general form of the Batch Send command is:

SEND nn [nn ...[nn]] TO filename

The keywords SEND and TO are required (case is not significant, used here for emphasis). The 'nn's represent area numbers, separated by spaces or any non-numeric character (1 2 3 or 1,2,3 for example). The filename will determine if one or multiple SEND files are to be created, as defined above.

Other options may be used in conjunction with this command (Show File Dates, Auto Adopt, System Path, etc) however THIS

FIDO-FAM Version 3.0

COMMAND MUST BE THE LAST ONE ON THE COMMAND LINE.

FIDO-FAM terminates following the completion of the SEND operation, with ERRORLEVEL set as follows:

- 0 - successful completion
- 3 - 'to' keyword not found, or no filename found
- 4 - unable to open 'to' file(s)
- 5 - no area numbers found between 'send' and 'to'

Messages are displayed on the screen as well.

If invalid area numbers are found, a warning message is displayed and no action is taken. This is not considered an error. ERRORLEVEL will be 0 even if no valid area numbers are found.

If no valid area numbers are found and the SEND TO file is a single file (a legal DOS file name) the SEND TO file will be empty (length will be 1 because the file is always terminated with a ^Z char).

### 5.3 Interactive SEND

FIDO-FAM's first screen displays the lowest level subdirectory names of the available file areas, and the prompt:

<Area Number> to edit, <E>xpanded info, <S>end to a file or <Q>uit

Entering the 'S' command invokes the interactive SEND operation. You will first be prompted for the Area Numbers to SEND. Don't forget that if you intend to create a single file the areas will appear in the order specified here.

Next is a prompt for the file name (which determines single or multiple SEND files as described above).

If a legal DOS filename was input and that file exists, you will be given the option to:

<A>ppend, <R>ewrite or <Q>uit

If multiple SEND files are requested (\*\filename) any existing files are overwritten in their respective directories.

FIDO-FAM Version 3.0

## 6 File Area Selection Screen

FIDO-FAM's first screen displays the lowest level subdirectory names of the available file areas, and the prompt:

<Area Number> to edit, <E>xpanded info, <S>end to a file or <Q>uit

Entering a valid area number will invoke the File Area Editor for that area (described below).

The 'E' command (Expanded Info) will prompt for the Area Number, and then display the full path name for that area and the first line of the DIR.BBS file in that area. If no DIR.BBS file is found, it says so.

The 'S' command is discussed above (Interactive SEND).

The 'Q' command exits FIDO-FAM. If the 'R' option was invoked on the command line, the screen colors will be restored, and the screen cleared to those colors before exiting.

Any invalid input is ignored. No funny messages, just no action (except to erase the bad input from the screen).

## 7 File Area Editor Operation

The file area editor starts by reading the directory of the selected area. It then reads FILES.BBS, if it is there. A working array of information is displayed for manipulation. Each line is numbered on the screen, with the current line in reverse video (and an asterisk in case color is not available). If a comment or description is too long to fit on the screen (because of the line number), its display is truncated, but no data is lost. The entire string is available for editing (discussed below).

If there is no FILES.BBS, and the Area Directory is empty, the display states: 'New FILES.BBS, no files found'. The only actions available are to Insert comments, or Edit the one line that is displayed. If no Inserts or Editing is done, a FILES.BBS is NOT created. ANY modifications will cause a FILES.BBS to be created in that subdirectory.

Per FIDO specs, any line in FILES.BBS is either a File Name and optional Description, or a Comment. If the first character of the line is a space, dash, or '@', the line is a comment, otherwise it is a file.

The working space for the FILES.BBS information is dynamically

10 (c) 1987 Dennis Glaeser

FIDO-FAM Version 3.0

allocated, based on the number of files in the area. If FILES.BBS has a lot of Missing file entries, or lots of comments you may see "Allocating more space ..." appear on startup. This is simply re-adjusting the space allocation. Currently the maximum space which will be allocated is 64K, enough for 595 entries in FILES.BBS. (Any file area which gets that big probably should be decomposed to make it more manageable anyway, and so far no one has complained about this limit).

If FILES.BBS is found, its contents are displayed. Files named in FILES.BBS which are found in the directory are displayed with their file size and description. If Showing File Dates, they are displayed between the file size and comment, with two spaces between file date and the comment (just like OPUS). File names which are not found are tagged 'Missing' in place of file size.

If the 'A' command line parameter was NOT used, any files in the area directory, not named in FILES.BBS are appended to the working display array, with their size [date] and a description of 'Orphan'. Using the 'A' parameter automatically adopts these files, and they appear no different than the files already in FILES.BBS.

The bottom two or three lines of the screen display the available commands, and prompts. The capital letter shown in each mnemonic is the character which will invoke that command. Character commands do not require a terminating carriage return. Numeric input requires a terminating carriage return. The bottom line changes to show the valid commands for the current line.

## 7.1 Cursor and Function Keys

When running the program locally on an IBM PC (or compatible) the

Arrow Keys, PgUp, PgDn, Ins, Del, and some Function keys, may be used, as noted below, in place of the appropriate character command. This assumes, of course, that the response generated by those keys has not been modified through the use of ANSI commands, 'Smart Key' programs, or Command Line Editor programs, etc.

During remote operation from a machine which has a PC style keyboard, the numeric equivalent of the Cursor keys perform the same function. Therefore, you may be able to toggle NumLock On and use the 'Cursor Keys'. This mechanism will work either Local or Remote. The Numeric keys which are not on the Cursor Key Pad act the same as those on the Cursor Keys.

No warranties expressed or implied about the use of Cursor or Function keys on any non PC-clone. Try them, if they work, fine. If they don't, use the character commands.

Note that the Local HOME/7 and END/1 keys have been implemented but no character command has been defined for these functions.

## 7.2 Cursor and Screen Movement

Command	Description
7, Home	jump to top of data
1, End	jump to end of data
U, 9, PgUp	page up a full screen or to the top of the data
D, 3, PgDn	page down a full screen or to the bottom of the data
P, 8, UpArrow	move to the previous line
N, 2, DnArrow	move to the next line
[, F5	move cursor to top of display
], F6	move cursor to bottom of display
CTRL-P, F1	scroll window and cursor UP one line (cursor appears stationary on screen, display scrolls 'behind' it)



CTRL-N, F2	scroll window and cursor DOWN one line (cursor appears stationary on screen)
ALT-P, F3	scroll window DOWN one line - cursor remains on same line (cursor moves UP, but is on same line number)
ALT-N, F4	scroll window UP one line - cursor remains on same line (cursor moves DOWN, but is on same line number)

### 7.3 Commands to Mark/Unmark Lines

Marked Lines are highlighted and have the '<' char following the line number (for non-color displays). If the current line is Marked, its '\*' is changed to a '#'.

Command	Description
-----	
B - Mark a Block of lines	You are prompted to enter the range of lines:

12 (c) 1987 Dennis Glaeser

FIDO-FAM Version 3.0

The valid ranges of numbers are shown for each input. If the current line is valid for input, it is displayed as the default which can be accepted by simply hitting carriage return.

X - UnMark a block of lines  
Works the same as the 'B' command.

CTRL-B - Mark ALL lines  
as described.

CTRL-X - Unmark ALL lines  
as described.

\* - Mark/UnMark the current line  
This toggles the current line only.

Editing Commands (described below) which work with Marked Lines operate in this manner:

If there ARE marked lines, the prompt is:

```
<operation> Marked entries or line [..line] x      Abort
```

Where x represents the current line number. The possible responses are:

```
'M' - to use the marked entries
<cr> - to use the current line
n1 - to use line n1 (n1 is a valid line number)
n1 n2 - to use the block n1 to n2 (where n1 and n2
       are valid line numbers) In this mode a
       value of n2 greater than the max valid
       line number (ie. 999) may be used. The two
       numbers may be separated by any non
       numeric char (space, comma, dot, ...).
```

Any response except 'M' ignores marks, and processes the line(s) indicated. If the key-in response does not make sense (no numbers found, n1 > n2, n1 not valid, ???) the command is aborted.

If NO marked entries are detected, the 'Marked entries' prompt does not appear, and the 'M' response is not available. All other responses are treated as described above.

Marks are not removed by any commands except '\*', 'X', and '^X' (discussed above). Marked Entries which are re-located within the current area (due to Moves or Sorts, or Inserts) remain Marked in their new position.

13 (c) 1987 Dennis Glaeser

FIDO-FAM Version 3.0

## 7.4 File Area Editing Commands

### 7.4.1 - A - Abandon/Adopt the file(s)

This command works with Marked Lines. If the [marked/n1..n2] line is an Orphan file, it becomes an Existing file, and this line will be added to FILES.BBS. Note that a file must be Adopted before its description or file name may be edited. If the [marked/n1..n2] line is an Existing file, this command will make it an Orphan. This means it will not appear in FILES.BBS, and any description which existed is lost. The description 'Orphan' is

displayed to identify such files. Marked Lines can be a mixture of Existing and Orphan files. This operation toggles each files' respective status. Comment lines are not affected.

#### 7.4.2 - C - Send a Command to DOS

A prompt will instruct you to enter a DOS command and then invoke the line editor (see E above). If the current line has a file name (existing, missing, or orphan), that name is placed in the buffer for convenience.

If the line entered is a single asterisk, "\*", the operation is aborted.

A blank line will simply invoke a secondary version of COMMAND.COM and a normal DOS prompt will appear. To return to FIDO-FAM, enter the EXIT command.

A non-blank command line will be executed by the secondary copy of COMMAND.COM and then return directly to FIDO-FAM. When control returns to FIDO-FAM it pauses until the user presses a key. This allows the user to view the last display generated by the subtask.

NOTE: if running FIDO-FAM remotely, remember that not all programs will run correctly in that environment!

FIDO-FAM is compiled to take aprox 160K, and release the rest back to DOS. The remaining available memory must be sufficient to hold the secondary COMMAND.COM and the program(s) to be run. If a DOS command fails to work, it is likely that insufficient memory is the problem. Unfortunately COMMAND.COM always returns with ERRORLEVEL set to 0, even if a problem occurred, so it is impossible to detect errors, much less provide error messages!  
NOTE: any changes to the current area's directory will NOT

automatically appear in the FILES.BBS display. See the G command.

#### 7.4.3 - E - Line Editor

The appropriate line is displayed in full at the bottom of the screen. This string may now be edited as desired. The line editing commands are displayed above the line being edited:

CTRL-V, Ins - toggles the mode between INSERT and OVERWRITE  
OVERWRITE is the default mode when the line  
editor is invoked. This can be changed by the  
'I' command line parameter.

TAB - insert spaces to align comment with file description  
(see below)

Cursor Movement Commands:

CTRL-W, Home - beginning of line  
CTRL-A - left one word  
CTRL-S, LtArrow - left one char (NOTE: was CTRL-D !!!)  
CTRL-D, RtArrow - right one char (NOTE: was CTRL-F !!!)  
CTRL-F - right one word  
CTRL-R - end of line  
CTRL-G, Del - delete char under cursor  
CTRL-H, BackSp - destructive cursor backward

Comment Lines may be up to 78 characters long. If the first character of a comment is not a space, dash, or '@', a space is inserted as the first character (bringing actual max to 79). File descriptions may be up to 56 characters long (44 if Showing File Dates). The cursor will not advance beyond the appropriate point.

NOTE: this routine is used to get input for some other commands (Find, dosCmd, renAme). The line editor does not strip leading or trailing blanks from the input string. Such blanks may be significant to the command being invoked. If you do not get the desired results, check to see if trailing blanks are the culprit.

The TAB key (the one between CTRL and ESC on a PC keyboard) provides a convenient way to align additional comment lines with a file description. It inserts sufficient blanks at the beginning of the comment string so that the comment will fall exactly under a File Description. When Showing File Dates, remember the File Date is NOT part of the description.

The INSERT mode has been given a new twist: When INSERTING chars, if the current string exceeds the defined max allowed for that string:

- the bell rings

- the last char of the string 'disappears' off the end
- the new char is inserted

Subsequent char deletes will 'recover' the last chars which were pushed off the end of the string. When the string is accepted (by hitting RETURN) only the valid (visible) chars are kept.

#### 7.4.4 - F - Find

The user is prompted to enter the string of characters to find. If the characters "\*" and "?" (DOS wildcards) appear in the string they are treated as DOS wildcards and only file names are searched.

If the search string has no wildcards, then everything (file names, file descriptions, and comments) are searched. If a match is found, it becomes the current line.

Subsequent Find commands display the last search string. A carriage return will search for the next occurrence of the string.

If a new string is entered on a subsequent Find, the search is started from the beginning of the data, not the current line.

Searches always stop at the bottom of the data. Subsequent searches will not automatically wrap around and start searching from the beginning of data.

#### 7.4.5 - G - Regenerate the Display

This command is a shortcut way of Quitting, then re-entering the same area. The most practical use of this command is after exiting to DOS and modifying the files in the current area subdirectory (expanding an ARC, unqueezing a file, etc). Unless this command is invoked, or you manually Quit and re-enter the area, the FILES.BBS data may not be in synch with the actual subdirectory contents.

#### 7.4.6 - I, Ins, 0 - Insert a comment

The user is prompted to indicate:

Before or After the current line

Either a 'B' or 'A' must be pressed. A blank line is inserted as requested. Note: only comments can be inserted. The only way to

add a file to an area is with the Move (Copy) or '#' commands.

#### 7.4.7 - J - Jump

The jump command can be direct or relative. The following prompt appears:

Jump (+n, -n, n)

Entering an unsigned number will make that line the current line. Entering a signed number will move the marker up (+) or down (-) the number indicated. Jump to 1 takes you to the top of the file. Jump to 999 (or any number  $\geq$  lines in the file) will take you to the last item in the file. If possible, the display will present the requested line in the center of the screen.

#### 7.4.8 - K, Del, . - Kill/Delete Line(s)

This command works with Marked Lines. A secondary prompt verifies that you really want to continue the operation. The appropriate Existing or Orphan files are physically delete from the directory. The line is removed from FILES.BBS and the display is updated.

#### 7.4.9 - M - Move/Copy lines

This command works with Marked Lines. Subsequent prompts are:

move [Marked/n1 [..n2]] to BEFORE line or area(#) (A)bort

If the last input is a '#', the prompt becomes:

Move [Marked/n1 [..n2]] Lines to Area \_

Only valid area numbers will be accepted. If a keyin is not detected within a few seconds, a list of available areas is displayed temporarily at the top of the screen. Of course, if an 'A' is input as the response to any prompt, the move is immediately aborted. If a valid Area Number is entered, the next prompt is:

keep original? (y/n)

If the response is Y (or y) the Move becomes a Copy! All leading comments (those prior to the first line with a filename) are Moved/Copied to the new area. Once a filename is encountered, all subsequent comment lines are considered to be comments about that file. If a file already exists in the destination area, the user will be notified and must indicate whether or not to overwrite it. NOTE: if a file is NOT moved, any trailing comment lines are not moved either! Any Orphan files moved to another area become existing files in the new area.

-----  
 Controlling locatation of data moved into a FILES.BBS:  
 -----

When moving files to the destination FILES.BBS, that file is searched for a Comment Line beginning with the chars: '-\*' (dash-asterisk). If found, the new lines are inserted immediately after that comment line, otherwise they are appended to the end of the file. (Note: This feature has always been in FIDO-FAM, but inadvertently not documented when the original version was released!).

#### 7.4.10 - O - Overwrite this Comment

The current line's comment or description is replaced with one from another line. Comments and descriptions are treated interchangeably by this command. If an existing, or missing file's description is being overwritten, leading blanks are removed from the incoming data.

#### 7.4.11 - Q - Quit the Editor

This command returns the user to the File Area Selection screen. See the discussion about backups below.

#### 7.4.12 - R - Rename the File

This command is only valid on Existing or Missing file lines. The line editor (see the 'E' command) is used to edit the name. The name must be a valid DOS file name, or the input is ignored. If the file exists, the file is renamed. If an existing file is renamed to another existing file name, the following prompt appears:

<filename> already exists, rename the entry anyway? (y/n)

If the user enters 'Y' (or 'y'), the entry in FILES.BBS is

18 (c) 1987 Dennis Glaeser

FIDO-FAM Version 3.0

renamed, and the area is automatically regenerated (see the G command). The file whose entry was renamed should then show up as an Orphan. Missing files may be renamed, but no actual directory checks are made.

#### 7.4.13 - S - Sort files

The user is prompted for the range to sort (first and last line numbers). This command DOES NOT work on Marked Lines, only the range explicitly entered in response to the prompts. Next, the user must select:

sort by: Name Ext File-date Descr-date

and then:

Ascending or Descending order

The sort by Descr-date looks only at the description on the same line as the file name, not any trailing comments. Descriptions without dates, by default, are placed AFTER dated descriptions.

The sort routine treats Existing, Missing, and Orphan lines as file lines. Comment lines are treated as follows:

- Comment lines which precede the first file line are ignored.
- Comment lines which follow a file line are treated as a continuation of the file line during sorting. Thus a file and all following comment lines stay together.

#### 7.4.14 - T - Date the file description

This command works with Marked or specified line(s), but is only valid for existing files. The user is prompted to select:

File date or System date



Either an 'F' or 'S' must be input. The appropriate date is inserted at the beginning of the description. The description is truncated if necessary. If the description was already dated, the new date replaces the old date. This replacement will only take place if the date is at the very beginning of the description.

#### 7.4.15 - V - View a File

This command is only valid for Existing or Orphan files. The file is analyzed to determine whether or not it is an ASCII text file. Text files are listed to the screen. Any lines longer than 79 chars are truncated to prevent wrap around. A non-ASCII file is displayed in a Hex Dump type of display. Either mode displays data a screen at a time. Any key but 'Q' will continue to display the file.

#### 7.4.16 - # - Move current line to another area

This command is only valid if the current line contains an existing or orphan file. A prompt requests the user to enter the destination area number or Abort. After a few seconds, unless a key is struck, a list of available areas is displayed. If a file with the same name already exists in the destination area, the user will be notified and must indicate whether or not to overwrite it. If the response is NO, the move is aborted and the file is not removed from the current area.

#### 7.4.17 - ? - Display a 'help' screen

This screen contains commands not shown on the normal command summary at the bottom of the editor screen:

#### 7.4.18 CTRL-A - Adopt all orphans

If you have entered FIDO-FAM with the 'A' parameter, this will happen automatically. However if you want to be selective about

which areas have the Orphans adopted (so you didn't use the A parameter) this command makes it easy to grab all Orphans for this area.

#### 7.4.19 CTRL-D - Remove Date from Comment(s)

This command works with Marked lines. It is provided as a convenience for those who are switching to an OPUS system. (This is the inverse of the 'T' command.)

20

(c) 1987 Dennis Glaeser

FIDO-FAM Version 3.0

#### 7.4.20 CTRL-E - Edit DIR.BBS

Only a one line DIR.BBS is supported. The top line of the Area display shows the current contents of DIR.BBS. The Line Editor is used to modify the data.

#### 7.4.21 CTRL-T - Touch (update File Date & Time)

This command works with Marked Lines. The appropriate files are updated with the current System Date and Time. No action is taken on Comment lines which are Marked.

The file description is NOT modified by this command (even if it contained the file date). Therefore if NOT Showing File Dates there will be no visual indication that the file date/time has been modified. Note however that immediately invoking the 'T' command WILL update (or add) the date to descriptions of the same file(s).

If File Dates ARE being shown, the displayed file date is modified to reflect the change.

## 8 Backup of .BBS Files

The 'B' command line parameter tells FIDO-FAM not to create .BAK

files for either FILES.BBS or DIR.BBS.

If this command is NOT used: The first time a change is made to any area's FILES.BBS, the original FILES.BBS becomes FILES.BAK, then the new FILES.BBS is written. Subsequent modifications to an area's FILES.BBS updates that file, but FILES.BAK is not modified.

In other words, regardless of how many times you change the FILES.BBS data, FILES.BAK is always the FILES.BBS you started with (for that session). FILES.BBS is always the latest data.

If changes are made to DIR.BBS (using the CTRL-E command), the current DIR.BAK is deleted (if it exists), and DIR.BBS is renamed to DIR.BAK. This process occurs each time you enter an Area and change DIR.BBS (the original DIR.BBS is NOT kept in the same manner as the original FILES.BBS).

21

(c) 1987 Dennis Glaeser

FIDO-FAM Version 3.0

## 9 Change History

### 9.1 Version 2.0

Initial Release.

### 9.2 Version 3.0

#### Bugs Fixed:

- Memory Allocation for the MOVE command. If available memory is tight, Version 2.0 may crash during a MOVE which requires physically copying files.
- The input to the Jump command may now be 'edited' by backspacing.
- Line numbers > 255 are now valid as input.
- The FILES.BBS file is now prettier - comments always line up regardless of file-name length.

#### Added Features and/or Commands:

- MARKED Lines
- OPUS Support (Show File Dates, Remove Dates from Comments)
- Color on/off control
- Editing of DIR.BBS
- Auto Adopt of Orphans,

- Control of .BAKs
- New String Editing commands
- Control of default mode in String Editor
- Sort enhancement,
- New Screen Scrolling Commands
- Program is now overlayed.
- Implemented a SEND option with both interactive and batch modes.
- Environment strings FAMOPT and FAMOVR may be used to specify options and overlay files path