

Manual

Allan Savage

COLLABORATORS

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Chapter 1

Manual

1.1 Easy Money v1.00

Easy Money.

A Home Accounting System for the Amiga Computer.

Written by Allan Savage © 1995/1998. All Rights Reserved.

Introduction

About the program.

Requirements

What you will need.

Features

What you can do with it.

Installation

How to install it on your system.

Registration

How to get the full registered version.

Definitions

An explanation of terms used in this manual.

Starting Easy Money

Starting the Program.

Instructions

How to use the program.

History

The Program's History.

The future
Possible ideas for the future.

Updates
Where to get it.

Legal Stuff
Distribution, Disclaimer, etc.

Acknowledgements
Thanks to whoever.

Feedback
How to contact the Author.

1.2 Introduction.

Introduction.

Easy Money is a program designed to keep track of your Bank Accounts, Loans, Credit Cards, etc., but can be used for practically any type of account, for example book clubs or Air Miles. It is simple to use (at least I think so) and at the same time is powerful enough to cope with the most demanding situations.

It operates using four main types of object. These are

1.
Files
- A collection of accounts.
2.
Accounts
- A collection of transactions and standing orders.
3.
Transactions
- A collection of information telling the program to add or subtract an amount of money from the account balance.
4.
Standing Orders
- A collection of information telling the program to automatically create transactions at regular intervals.

1.3 Files.

Files.

A file is simply a group of accounts. Each file can contain an unlimited number of accounts (unregistered users can only create 2 accounts per file) which will all be loaded and saved as a single unit.

The entire file can also be password protected to prevent unauthorised access.

Easy Money data files are stored in an encrypted format, so even a hex dump of the file will reveal nothing of any importance.

1.4 Accounts.

Accounts.

An account is (as the name suggests) a representation of an individual bank account. However, since it is essentially just a list of numbers, it can also be used to keep running totals of just about any type of account, for example, air miles, pension payments, credit cards, or home shopping catalogues.

There are three main elements to an account. The first of these is the

account properties
, which is used to store general information about the
account. This information includes the account's name, credit limit, and
starting balance.

The second part is the
standing order list
and the third (and most
important) part is the
transaction list
.

1.5 Transactions.

Transactions.

A transaction is simply a collection of information defining an action to perform on the account.

Each transaction consists of a date, a description, an amount and two flags indicating special processing for the transaction.

1.6 Standing Orders.

Standing Orders.

A Standing Order is simply a collection of information defining an action

that should be applied to the account at regular intervals.

Each Standing Order consists of an amount, a description, a range of dates and a frequency. The program will then automatically create a transaction for each standing order as and when they become due.

For example, a monthly standing order starting on 01/01/97 and running to 15/03/97 will create three identical transactions on the dates 01/01/97, 01/02/97 and 01/03/97. Each of the transactions will only appear when their date has passed, i.e. on 31/01/97 only the first one will exist, but on 01/02/97 the second one will be created.

This provides a useful way of entering regular transactions like loan repayments.

It can also be used as a primitive prediction tool, by creating standing orders to simulate account incomings and outgoings, and then setting the program date to some time in the future. This will give you a rough idea of what state your account will be in on that date if you continue to spend or save at your current rate.

1.7 Requirements.

Requirements.

Although Easy Money is a very powerful program, you do not require a very powerful machine to run it. It has been written to run under WB2.0 and above, and should run quite happily on a machine with only 1MB of memory and a floppy disk drive. However, it will make use of any additional capabilities of the machine such as more memory, hard disks, etc.

1.8 Features.

Features.

The current registered version supports the following features.

- Unlimited Accounts in the one file.
 - Two account types - Current and Credit.
 - Unlimited Transactions in each Account.
 - Unlimited Standing Orders in each Account.
 - Seven frequencies of standing orders - Weekly, Fortnightly, Lunar Monthly, Monthly, Quarterly, Half Yearly and Annually.
 - Transfer funds between accounts.
 - Optional user defined limits for the number of transactions and standing orders on an account by account basis.
 - Optional Password Protection for each file.
 - Data files are coded to keep private information private.
 - Merge several data files into one.
 - Summarise your financial situation by listing all accounts with totals.
 - Prints transactions, standing orders or account summary to a preference's printer or to a plain text file.
-

- Automatic Account Reconciliation.
- Keyboard short-cuts and toolbar buttons for the most common functions.
- Calculator.
- Millennium Compatibility. All dates entered are taken as being in the range 01/01/1990 to 31/12/2089.

The unregistered version has the following limitations.

- Cannot merge data files.
- Cannot load password protected files.
- Cannot save password protected files.
- No more than two accounts.
- No more than 15 transactions per account.
- Only one standing order per account.

1.9 Installation.

Installation.

Easy Money is very easy to install/upgrade using the supplied installer script. If you do not have Commodore's installer utility, or you would just prefer to install it manually, all you have to do is copy the Easy_Money directory from the archive to somewhere on your system (floppy disk, hard disk, ZIP disk, any disk).

You should now be ready to run the unregistered version of Easy Money using the program's default settings.

If you are upgrading from a previous version just replace the old program files (Easy_Money and EM_Calc) with the new ones. Easy Money will continue to use your own settings as set up in the preferences requester. If you had registered the old version, the new version will also be registered. You do not need to recreate your key-file, or resave your preferences, since these files are not distributed with Easy Money, and so will not be replaced.

1.10 Registration Details.

Registering Easy Money.

Easy Money is shareware. The unregistered version has the following limitations.

- Cannot merge data files.
- Cannot load password protected files.
- Cannot save password protected files.
- No more than two accounts.
- No more than 15 transactions per account.
- Only one standing order per account.

To unlock its full potential you will need to register. Once you have registered you will be able to merge files, use password protection, and have unlimited numbers of everything (memory allowing). I will also promise

to answer any questions you may have about the program to the best of my ability (I cannot even guarantee to reply if you have not registered).

To register just complete the
orderform
, and send it with £15 sterling (30
US dollars) to:

Mr. Allan Savage
2 Navar Drive
Gransha Road
Bangor
N. Ireland
BT19 7SW

The registration details you supply are linked to the resulting key-codes, so make sure that everything is spelt exactly the way you want it. They are also case sensitive, so you should not randomly change case unless you want them to appear that way on the Registration Screen.

If you cannot print the orderform, just write the required information on a piece of paper, but please ensure that it is easily readable. If I cannot read your writing (sometimes I can't read my own) you might lose your registration fee.

In return you will receive a copy of the registration details used, and the three resulting registration codes (key-codes), which will give you full access to the real power of Easy Money. You will also receive a serial number which will entitle you to free user support for the package. If you have decided to receive your key-codes by e-mail I will also attach a copy of your key-file, so you can simply install it without having to type in your details.

Your serial number plays no part in unlocking Easy Money, but it should be quoted in all correspondence if you want to get a reply.

It is strongly advised that you keep your key-codes safe so that you can recreate your key-file if necessary. I will not re-issue key-codes, unless you can prove, without a doubt, that you have already registered. Likewise, you should keep your serial number safe, since without it I cannot guarantee to answer any of your questions.

The key-codes (and the resulting key-file) will be unique to the registered user, so please do not give them to anyone else, as they can be traced back to you.

Upgrades can be obtained simply by getting the latest version from the Aminet or the Easy Money support site. All future versions will be compatible with the current key-file format.

Registrations, where the shareware fee is paid in cash, can be dealt with very quickly (the day I receive it if you want your key-codes by e-mail, or a few days later by post) . If you pay by cheque it will take about a week longer to validate the payment. If you are sending cash, please make sure that it is well wrapped in the envelope.

1.11 Registration Order Form.

To
Mr. Allan Savage
2 Navar Drive
Gransha Road
Bangor
N. Ireland
BT19 7SW

I want to become a registered user of "Easy Money", and have enclosed the registration fee of £15.00UK / \$30.00US (delete as appropriate). My details are as follows:

Name : _____

Address : _____

Country : _____

Postcode : _____

E-Mail : _____

Homepage : _____

I want to use the following information as my registration details.

Name : _____

Street : _____

Country : _____

(These three fields can contain any information, as long as it is unique to you, but Name and Address is recommended. Each field must contain at most 30 characters, and must not be empty. They are also case sensitive.)

I would like to receive my registration codes via (please mark relevant box)

| | E-mail (recommended method)

| | Postal Service

I have read, and agree with, the distribution rules as explained the manual. I will install my key-file on only one computer, and will not

give either the key-file or the key-codes to anyone else.

Signature : _____ Date : _____

1.12 Definitions.

Definitions.

- Active account - Each file can contain more than one account. Only one of these accounts can be viewed or worked on at any time (except when setting up a transfer). This is known as the active account. The name of the active account will always be displayed in the screen's title bar.
- Credit Account - An account for which you have specified a credit limit.
- Current Account - An account which does not have a credit limit associated with it.
- Overdrawn - The account balance is negative for current accounts, or less than the credit limit for credit accounts.
- Checked - When a transaction appears on your bank statement it should be marked as checked. This will display the transaction in a different colour indicating that it has been processed by your bank and will also tell the program that this transaction should take no further part in the automatic reconciliation process.
- Deferred - When a transaction is marked as deferred its value will not be added to the account balance. This can be used for a number of reasons. For example, you might defer a cancelled cheque so that it is recorded in the account, but not deducted.
Deferred transactions will be cleared during the automatic reconciliation process, which uses them to highlight the transactions which might not be on your bank statement. If you want to keep a transaction marked as deferred it is best to also mark it as checked.
- Still Valid - A standing order is "Still Valid" if there are any outstanding payments yet to be made on it, i.e. its end date has not yet passed.
- Completed - A standing order is "Completed" if there are no more payments to be made on it.
- Quarter - A period of three months. There are only four quarters in the year, the first running from April to June, and the rest running from July to September, October to December, and January to March.
- Lunar Month - A period of four weeks. There are thirteen lunar months in a year.
-

1.13 Starting the Program.

Starting the Program.

The program can be started from either the command line or from the Workbench.

To start it from the command line you can just enter the name of the program (Easy_Money). This will start the program in its initial state, i.e. no file will be loaded. To have Easy Money automatically load a file just add the filename to the command line. For example, Easy_Money Demo_File.EMNY will run Easy Money, which will then load the file Demo_File.EMNY. The specified file does not have to be a data file. It is equally valid to specify an Easy Money Preferences file. In this case the settings in the specified file will override the program's default settings.

To start it from the Workbench you need only double click the program's icon. To automatically load a data or preferences file you can simply select the appropriate file icon and then shift double click the program icon. This will behave in exactly the same way as specifying the filenames on the end of the command line.

If you are using a registered version of the program you can specify more than one file to be automatically loaded. Easy Money will automatically load the first data file, and then merge all the others. Any preference files will completely override any previous program settings. The unregistered version will also allow you to specify more than one file, but only the first file will be loaded. The unregistered program will not merge data files.

1.14 Instructions.

Instructions.

The program is divided into three main screens, each of which has its own subset of the entire menu system. Each screen also has a toolbar which gives access to the more commonly used functions. Keyboard control is also supported using keyboard short-cuts for the menu options and some other special keys. These will all be explained in more detail in the relevant sections of this manual.

Screens and toolbars

The Menus

1.15 Screens and toolbars.

Screens and toolbars.

Each screen in the system follows the same format. They are all divided

into two important areas, namely a list area and a toolbar. The screen's title bar will display the name and version of the program, and will also show the name of the active account.

The list area is used to display the relevant information for the current screen and as such it takes up most of the screen. It consists of a title bar, a scroll bar and the display area itself. The display area is capable of displaying its information in different colours, each of which has a special meaning. The exact meaning depends on which screen is being viewed.

The toolbar is the small area at the bottom of the screen which contains buttons to access the more commonly used functions. Most of these actions can be performed using the menu system but there are a few special functions which can only be accessed via the toolbar.

There are also some key controls common to all the screens.

The Key Controls

The Account Summary Screen

The Transactions Screen

The Standing Orders Screen

1.16 The Key Controls.

The Key Controls.

The keys which can be used to control the program are as follows. Keyboard short-cuts for the menu options will not be listed since these can be looked up from the menus themselves.

Up Arrow : Scroll up the display list by one line.

Down Arrow : Scroll down the display list by one line.

Shift + Up Arrow : Scroll up the display list by one page.

Shift + Down Arrow : Scroll down the display list by one page.

Ctrl + Up Arrow : Display the first page of the display list.

Ctrl + Down Arrow : Display the last page of the display list.

Right Arrow : Cycles from one display to the next in the order Transactions -> Standing Orders -> Account Summary.

Left Arrow : Cycles from one display to the previous in the order Transactions -> Account Summary -> Standing Orders.

Shift + Right Arrow : Cycles through the available accounts. Each press

Ctrl + Right Arrow : selects the next account on the list, or if the last

account is active it will select the first account.

Shift + Left Arrow : Cycles through the available accounts. Each press
Ctrl + Left Arrow : selects the previous account on the list, or if the
first account is active it will select the last
account.

Help : Displays the about window. This may change in later
versions.

Delete : Delete the currently selected items. The exact effect
will depend on which screen is visible.

Shift + Delete : Will delete the active account.

Ctrl + Delete : Also deletes the active account.

1.17 The Account Summary Screen.

The Account Summary Screen.

This screen is used to view a summary of all the accounts contained within
the current file. It lists up to 25 accounts on screen at once, but can be
scrolled if you have more accounts than this.

For each account the information shown consists of

1. The account name.
2. The actual and maximum number of transactions for the account.
3. The actual and maximum number of standing orders for the account.
4. The credit limit for the account.
5. The credit remaining on the account.
6. The current balance of the account.

Each line will be listed in one of two colours.

1. Red means that the account is overdrawn.
2. Black means that the account is not overdrawn.

If the maximum number of transactions or standing orders is displayed as
"Inf" this means that there is no limit set for that account. "Inf" is
short for Infinite.

If the Credit Left or Balance fields show "Out of Rng" this simply means
that the value is too big to display in the available space. Any
calculations based on these figures will still be correct.

The active account will have its name listed in the screen's title bar and
will also be highlighted by a blue bar.

Clicking on an account will select it as the active account. Double
clicking on an account will call up the

Account Attributes
requester

allowing that account to be edited.

The toolbar on this screen contains six buttons. These are as follows

1. Transactions
 - Changes the display to the Transaction Screen.
2. Standing Orders
 - Changes the display to the Standing Order Screen.
3. Print
 - Prints the entire Account Summary to a printer or to a file. The exact format of the output can be altered using the Printer Setup requester. If there are no accounts in the current file this button will be disabled.
4. Add
 - Create a new account.
5. Delete
 - Delete the active account.
6. Edit Attributes
 - Displays the Account Attributes requester.

1.18 The Transactions screen.

The Transactions screen.

This screen is used to control and to view the transaction list for the active account.

Its main display area lists up to 26 transactions at any one time. This list can of course be scrolled as necessary if there are more than 26 transactions in the active account.

Each line will display the following information.

1. Date - The date of the transaction.
2. Description - A textual description for the transaction.
3. Debit Amount - If the transaction is a debit this column will show how much. Otherwise it will be empty.
4. Credit Amount - If the transaction is a credit this column will show how much. Otherwise it will be empty. Amounts of £0.00 are taken as a credit, no matter how they were specified when creating the transaction.
5. Resulting Balance - The resulting account balance AFTER this transaction has been added.

Each line will be listed in one of five colours.

1. Red means that the resulting balance is overdrawn after adding this transaction.
 2. Black means that the resulting balance is not overdrawn.
 3. Green means that the transaction has been marked as deferred.
-

4. Yellow means that the transaction has been marked as checked.
5. Blue means that the transaction has been marked as both checked and deferred.

Blue, Green and Yellow will all override Red or Black, i.e. If a checked transaction makes the account overdrawn it will be shown in Yellow, not Red.

Selected transactions will be highlighted by a blue bar. It is possible to select more than one transaction at a time simply by clicking on them individually, or by selecting one and then dragging the highlight over the others. The list will scroll if you attempt to drag the highlight above or below the display area. To deselect a transaction simply click on it again.

Double clicking on a transaction will call up the Edit Transaction requester allowing all selected transactions to be edited in sequence. ←

The toolbar on this screen contains ten buttons. These are as follows

1. Standing Orders
- Changes the display to the Standing Order Screen.
 2. Print
- Prints the transaction list to a printer or to a file. By default all transactions will be printed but this can be altered using the Printer Setup requester. The exact format of the output can also be altered using the Printer Setup. If there are no transactions in the active account this button will be disabled. ←
 3. Check - Toggles the 'checked' state of the currently selected transactions. If there are no transactions selected this button will be disabled.
 4. Defer - Toggles the 'deferred' state of the currently selected transactions. If there are no transactions selected this button will be disabled.
 5. Add
- Calls up the Add Transactions requester allowing one or more transactions to be created.
 6. Delete
- Deletes all selected transactions, after confirming that this is really what is required. If there are no transactions selected this button will be disabled.
 7. Edit
- Calls up the Edit Transactions requester
-

allowing all the selected transactions to be altered. If there are no transactions selected this button will be disabled.

8.

Transfer

- Calls up the

Transfer Funds

requester allowing

one or more fund transfers to be created. There must be at least two accounts in the current file for this button to be available.

9.

^

- Moves the selected transaction up the list one position. This button will be disabled if there is no selected transaction, there is more than one selected transaction or the selected transaction is already the first transaction for its date.

10.

v

- Moves the selected transaction down the list one position. This button will be disabled if there is no selected transaction, there is more than one selected transaction or the selected transaction is already the last transaction for its date.

1.19 The Transaction Display Sequence.

The Transaction Display Sequence.

The transaction list will always be displayed in date order. Where more than one transaction has the same date they will be displayed in the order in which they were created.

However, it is possible for you to change the order of the transactions within a particular date. Selecting a single transaction will activate the arrow buttons in the bottom right corner of the screen, but only if the transaction can be moved in that direction without altering the date order. i.e. if a transaction is already the last one for its date then it cannot be moved further down the list. Likewise, if it is the first for its date then it cannot be moved up the list.

This can be useful to avoid the account becoming artificially overdrawn if you know for sure that two transactions will happen in a certain sequence.

For example, imagine your account has £100.00 in it and you send a cheque for £200.00 to your credit card company. Later the same day you lodge your £800.00 pay cheque. This would give the following result;

Previous Balance		100.00	
Pay credit card bill	200.00	-100.00	<< Negative Result
Lodge Pay Cheque	800.00	700.00	

But, you know that your pay cheque will get through the bank's clearing

system long before your credit card payment simply because of the postal delays in the card payment getting to the card company. Simply move the pay cheque up one transaction, or move the card payment down one. This shows that the account never actually becomes overdrawn, as follows;

Previous Balance		100.00	
Lodge Pay Cheque	800.00	900.00	<< Positive Result
Pay credit card bill	200.00	700.00	

1.20 The Standing Orders Screen.

The Standing Orders Screen.

This screen is used to control and to view the standing order list for the active account.

Its main display area lists up to 26 standing orders at any one time. This list can of course be scrolled as necessary if there are more than 26 standing orders in the active account.

Each line will display the following information.

1. Start - The start date for the standing order. This is the date used for the first transaction created by the standing order.
2. End - The end date for the standing order. This is not necessarily the date of the last transaction created by the standing order. It is simply an upper limit, after which no transaction will be created by the standing order.
3. Description - A textual description for the standing order. This will be used as the description for each transaction created by the standing order.
4. Type - This shows the frequency of the standing order, and is used to determine when the individual transactions will be created.
5. Amount - This is the value of the standing order, and will be used as the value for each transaction created by it.

Each line will be listed in one of three colours.

1. Black means that the standing order is for a positive amount, i.e. a credit.
2. Red means that the standing order is for a negative amount, i.e. a debit.
3. Yellow means that the standing order is completed, i.e. its end date has already passed.

Yellow will override Red or Black, i.e. A completed standing order will always be shown in yellow, regardless of whether it is a credit or debit.

Selected standing orders will be highlighted by a blue bar. It is possible to select more than one standing order at a time simply by clicking on them individually, or by selecting one and then dragging the highlight over the others. The list will scroll if you attempt to drag the highlight above or below the display area. To deselect a standing order simply click on it again.

Double clicking on a standing order will call up the Edit Standing Order requester allowing all selected standing orders to be edited in sequence. ←

The toolbar on this screen contains nine buttons. These are as follows

1. Transactions
- Changes the display to the Transaction Screen.
 2. Print
- Prints the standing order list. The exact format of the output can be altered using the Printer Setup requester. If there are no standing orders in the active account this button will be disabled. ←
 3. Add
- Calls up the Add Standing Orders requester allowing one or more standing orders to be created.
 4. Delete
- Deletes all selected standing orders, after confirming that this is really what is required. If there are no standing orders selected this button will be disabled.
 5. Edit
- Calls up the Edit Standing Orders requester allowing all the selected standing orders to be altered. If there are no standing orders selected this button will be disabled.
 6. Transfer
- Calls up the Transfer Funds requester allowing one or more regular fund transfers to be created. There must be at least two accounts in the current file for this button to be available.
 7. Stop Payments - Sets the End Date of all selected standing orders to the current date, but only if the End Date is not filled in, or if the End Date is sometime after the current date, i.e. it will have no effect on those standing orders which have already terminated. If there are no standing orders selected this button will be disabled.
 8. ^
- Moves the selected standing order up the list one position. This button will be disabled if there is no selected standing order, there is more than one
-

selected standing order, or the selected standing order is already at the top of the list.

9.

v

- Moves the selected standing order down the list one position. This button will be disabled if there is no selected standing order, there is more than one selected standing order, or the selected standing order is already at the bottom of the list.

1.21 The Standing Order Display Sequence.

The Standing Order Display Sequence.

The exact sequence in which the standing orders are displayed does not matter. For this reason they are just displayed in the order in which they were created.

It is possible to change this order simply by selecting them one at a time and moving them to a new position using the arrow buttons at the bottom right of the screen. When the selected standing order reaches the top or bottom of the list, the relevant arrow button will become disabled.

Changing the display sequence also alters the processing sequence of the standing orders. The effect of this is that if two or more standing orders occur on the same day, the transactions associated with the first one will be added to the account first. This might lead to problems with artificial overdrafts on the transaction list. However, this can easily be corrected either by swapping the standing orders around, or by switching each of the transactions individually (See the transaction display sequence for more details on this).

Another reason for moving the standing orders is simply to group them. For example, you might have several standing orders set up to pay various insurance policies. It would make sense to group these together so that you can see at a glance which policies are being paid.

Note that moving a standing order will not change the order of any transactions already created by it. It will only affect the order in which future transaction will be created.

1.22 The Menus.

The Menus.

The main menu system.

The following is a summary of the complete menu system for the entire

program. Menus common to all three screens are shown first. These are followed by the screen specific menus.

File	Accounts	Displays
	New	
	Select ...	
	Transactions ...	
	Open ...	
	Add ...	
	Standing Orders ...	
	Merge ...	
	Delete ...	
	Account Summary ...	
	Close	
	Attributes ...	
	Save	
	Printer	Tools
	Save As ...	
	Print Transactions	
	Preferences ...	
	Password ...	
	Print Standing Orders	
	Change Date ...	
	Registration ...	
	Print Account Summary	
	Calculator ...	
	About ...	
	Printer Setup ...	
	Quit	

The Transactions screen also has an additional "Reconcile" sub- menu on the "Accounts" menu, and an additional "Transactions" menu. The Standing Order screen has an additional "Standing Orders" menu.

Transactions	Standing Orders	Accounts - Reconcile
Add ...		
Add ...		
Find Balance ...		
Delete		
Delete		
Check Undeferred		
Edit ...		
Edit ...		
Clear Defers		
Transfer Funds ...		
Transfer Funds ...		
The Preferences menu system.		

The following is a summary of the menu system for the preferences requester.

Preferences

- Restore
- Load Default
- Load Other ...
- Save Default
- Save As ...
- Use Current
- Cancel

1.23 File - New

File - "New"

This option will delete all accounts in the current file (if any) and will display the

New Account requester.

If the current file has any unsaved changes, you will be warned ↔ that these will be lost if you continue. You will be given the option of continuing

anyway, saving the file first and then continuing or cancelling the entire operation.

1.24 File - Open ...

File - "Open ..."

This option will delete all accounts in the current file (if any) and will then load a new file from disk.

If the current file has any unsaved changes, you will be warned that these will be lost if you continue. You will be given the option of continuing anyway, saving the file first and then continuing or cancelling the entire operation.

The program will next display a file requester. You may then choose any valid Easy Money data file (or files using shift selection) and the program will attempt to load it (or them) into memory. If any selected file is not an Easy Money data file an error will be displayed and that file will not be loaded. The program will continue to try loading any remaining files. If you select more than one file, the first one will be loaded as normal (replacing anything currently in memory) and all the others will be

merged

with this. (The unregistered version of the program will allow you to select one file at a time.) ←
only

If any file is password protected you will be given three chances to enter the correct password. Failure to do so means that file will not be opened. Remember that the passwords are case sensitive, i.e. "PassWord" is not the same as "password".

Assuming the password is entered correctly (if applicable) the file will now be loaded. If the file is corrupted or truncated an error will be displayed and the file will stop loading. In this case anything which has been loaded successfully will remain in memory, thus reducing the amount of data lost. The same will happen if the program runs out of memory while loading the file. The program will still attempt to load any other files which you have selected.

When each file has been loaded the current display will be updated to show the new data. The new active account will be whichever account (in the first file) was active when the file was last saved. The position you were at when you last saved the file will also be restored.

During the loading process the accounts will all be updated to reflect the current situation as instructed by the standing orders. The rules for this are explained in the

Change Date
section.

1.25 File - Merge ...

File - "Merge ..."

This option will not be available if there is no file currently loaded or if you are using an unregistered version of the program. When available it will load a new file (or files) from disk adding it (or them) to the currently loaded file.

The process involved is the same as that for opening a file.

When a file is merged the accounts in the new file are added to the account

list of the current file. If one or more of the new accounts have the same name as one of the existing accounts, the new ones will be renamed. It is not yet possible to merge two accounts into one.

When merging a file the active account will not change. This means that the display will not change, unless you are looking at the account summary screen.

1.26 File - Close

File - "Close"

This option will not be available if there is no file currently in memory. When available it will delete the current file from memory.

If the current file has any unsaved changes, you will be warned that these will be lost if you continue. You will be given the option of continuing anyway, saving the file first and then continuing or cancelling the entire operation.

1.27 File - Save

File - "Save"

This option will not be available if there is no file currently in memory. When available it will simply save the file to disk using its current name.

The new file will overwrite the old one, but this behaviour can be changed using the

program preferences.

The alternative will create a backup copy of the old file (replacing any previous backups) and will then save the new file.

It is also possible to automatically create an icon for the file. This can also be set in the program preferences. If an icon already exists for the file it will not be replaced. The icon used for this purpose is stored in the PROGDIR:ICON directory and can be changed to customise your system. If

you replace this file you must make sure that the new icon has its default tool pointing to the Easy Money program file.

If you are working on a new file which has not yet been named, this option will work in the same way as the

Save As
option.

1.28 File - Save As ...

File - "Save As ..."

This option will not be available if there is no file currently in memory. When available it will save the file to disk using a new name.

It will first display a file requester allowing you to name (or rename) the file. If a file with the selected name already exists you will be asked to confirm that it should be replaced.

It will also check if a password is required and if necessary it will display the

password selection requester
allowing you to enter one. This

will not happen if you have already entered a password, manually switched off the password, or have set the

program preferences
so that passwords

are not required for new files.

From here on this option will operate in the same way as
Save.

1.29 File - Password ...

File - "Password ..."

This option will not be available if there is no file currently loaded or if you are using an unregistered version of the program. When available it will display the

password selection requester
allowing you to add, remove

or change the password for the current file.

These password settings are stored in the file when it is saved. This makes it possible to place passwords on some of your files, and not on others. Each file may have a different password, and password protection will still operate correctly if the file is loaded on a different machine.

1.30 The Password Selection Requester.

The Password Selection Requester.

The password selection requester contains a cycle gadget, three text boxes and an "OK" button. Together these are used to add, remove or change a password.

The "OK" button can be used to close the requester at any time unless you have selected to use a password, but have not yet specified one.

The "Use Password" cycle gadget has two settings, "Yes Please" and "No Thanks". Not surprisingly, it is used to select if Easy Money should password protect the current file. If a file is saved without password protection, any password which may have been previously set will be lost when the file is subsequently reloaded.

Setting the "Use Password" cycle gadget to "Yes Please" will enable you to create or change the password. If the current file already has a password the "Enter Old Password" text box will become active and you will have to enter the current password before you are allowed to change it. After correctly entering the old password, or if the file does not already have a password, the "Enter New Password" text box will activate. Just enter your new password and the "Verify New Password" text box will ask you to repeat it. The New password will only be set if you enter exactly the same text in both the "New Password" boxes.

Note that passwords are case sensitive, i.e. "Password", "password" and "PASSWORD" will be treated as three different words.

1.31 File - Registration ...

File - "Registration ..."

This option will display the registration details window. It can be used to view the current details, but its more important function is to accept new details and create a suitable key-file.

Without a valid key-file the program will only operate in the unregistered mode.

1.32 The Registration Details Window.

The Registration Details Window.

The registration window is very simple to use. When it is first displayed it will contain the current registration details. To close the window without trying to create a key-file just click on the Cancel button or press 'C' or 'Escape'.

To create a valid key-file you will first need to register with me.

I

will then send you three numeric codes and a serial number. Just enter the three lines of text which you have registered, the three numeric codes and the serial number and click on 'Make Key-File'. The registration details are case sensitive, so it is important that you enter them exactly as registered.

If you have entered the details correctly Easy Money will immediately switch to its registered mode.

The key-file created by this process will be stored in the Easy Money program directory and will be called Easy_Money.KEY. Do NOT delete this file unless you can recreate it, otherwise Easy Money will revert to its unregistered mode.

1.33 File - About ...

File - "About ..."

The Easy Money About box just shows some information about the program, such as which version it is and when it was compiled.

Most of this information will only change if you get a new version of the program. However, there are two pieces of information at the bottom which might change every time you open the requester. These are the number of accounts in the current file, and the amount of free memory on your system.

1.34 File - Quit

File - "Quit"

This option will close the current file, and will then quit the program.

If the current file has any unsaved changes, you will be warned that these will be lost if you continue. You will be given the option of continuing anyway, saving the file first and then continuing or cancelling the entire operation.

1.35 Accounts - Select ...

Accounts - "Select ..."

This option will only be available if there are two or more accounts in the current file.

When available it will display the

Account Selection list
allowing you to
pick one of the accounts in the current file. Whichever account is chosen
will become the new active account.

1.36 The Account Selection List.

The Account Selection List.

This list will display the names of all accounts in the current file. It can be scrolled if there are too many accounts to be displayed at once. By default the active account will be highlighted by a blue bar and will be visible within the list.

The list will always be in alphabetical order, even if the accounts have numeric names. This means that "2" will come after "19" and "200" will come before "21".

The cursor keys can be used to move the blue highlight up and down the list. The left and up key will both move it up the list, while right and down both move it down. The list should scroll automatically to keep the highlight bar in view. If you attempt to move the bar off the end of the list it will wrap around to the other end.

To select an account just highlight it with the blue bar, and then press "Return" or "Enter". You can also use the button on the left underneath the list by clicking on it with the mouse or pressing the underlined letter. The text on this button will change depending on the reason the list is displayed.

You may also select an account by simply double clicking on it.

To cancel the selection process just click on "Cancel" or press "C" or "Escape".

1.37 Accounts - Add ...

Accounts - "Add ..."

This option will only be available if you have already created or loaded a file.

When available it will open the
New Account requester
allowing you to
create any number of new accounts, memory permitting. These accounts will
be inserted into the account list of the current file in alphabetical order.

1.38 The New Account requester.

The New Account requester.

This requester contains all the fields and buttons necessary to create and initialise a new account.

Most of these fields contain sensible default values, so you do not have to change them unless you wish to specify something different. Most of them can also be changed later using the

Account Attributes

so it is not a

problem if you forget to change something.

The "Account Name" is used to identify the account. This is the name which will be displayed on the account summary screen, on the account selection lists and in the screen's title bar when the account is active. This is a free format text field which must contain something. The only other restriction is that the contents should be unique within the file. i.e. no two accounts within a single file can have the same name.

The "Starting Balance" is used as a starting point for the calculations on the account. This is the only thing which cannot be directly changed later. You can only enter a positive amount with at most 2 decimal places. If you need to enter a negative value the cycle gadget should be changed to "Debit". Leaving this empty will use a value of 0.00.

The

Maximum Number of Transactions

field is used to set an upper limit on

the number of transactions which will be kept for each account. This can be any number in the range 0-9999 inclusive. If left empty a value of 0 will be assumed. The default value for this field can be set in the

Program Preferences.

Setting this value to 0 will disable the limit and all transactions will be kept.

The

Maximum Number of Standing Orders

field is used to set an upper limit

on the number of standing orders which will be kept for each account. This works in the same way as the limit on transactions, the only difference being that the maximum value is 999. The purpose of these limits is simply to keep the file size small, thereby keeping the loading and saving times to a minimum, and also preventing smaller machines from running out of memory.

The "Account Type" selector is used to specify the type of the new account. Currently the only two options are "Current Account" and "Credit Account". The only difference between these two is that a "Credit Account" can have a credit limit.

The "Credit Limit" field will only be available if the account type is set to "Credit". It is used to specify the credit limit on the account and can easily be changed later if your credit limit increases. This will usually

be a negative value and represents how much (of somebody else's) money you are allowed to spend before the account is considered overdrawn. It can also be set to a positive value by using the cycle gadget beside it. This might be useful to set a early warning on your bank account so that Easy Money will warn you when you are running low on funds.

The "OK" button will create the new account and close the requester. It may be activated by pressing "O", "Return" or "Enter" when none of the text fields are active, or simply by clicking on it with the mouse.

The "Next" button will create the new account and clear the requester ready for another account to be set up. It may be activated by pressing "N" or by clicking on it.

The "Cancel" button will close the requester without creating the account. It can be activated by pressing "C" or "Esc" or by clicking on it.

1.39 The Transaction Limit.

Limiting the number of Transactions.

Each account can have an individual limit set on the number of transactions which will be kept. This function can be switched off simply by setting the limit to 0 in which case all transactions will be kept.

This function can be used to keep the file small, thereby saving time, disk space and memory.

When the limit is reached and a new transaction is added the first transaction on the list will be deleted. Its value will be added to the account's starting balance so that the overall total will remain unchanged. In this way the account will maintain the correct total, but will keep only the most recent transactions. Note that if you add a transaction to the start of the list when the limit has been reached, the new transaction will be lost, but its value will be added into the account.

The unregistered version of the program will keep at most 15 transactions, regardless of the value which this limit is set to.

1.40 The Standing Order Limit.

Limiting the number of Standing Orders.

Each account can have an individual limit set on the number of standing orders which will be kept. This function can be switched off simply by setting the limit to 0 in which case all standing orders will be kept.

This function can be used to keep the account tidy by automatically deleting completed standing orders.

When the limit is reached and a new standing order is added, one of two things will happen. If you have some completed standing orders you will be given the option of deleting them all, increasing the limit or cancelling the operation. If all your standing orders are still valid you will only be given the option of increasing the limit or cancelling the operation.

Choosing to cancel will abort without adding the new standing order to the account.

Choosing to delete will remove all completed standing orders making space for the new one, and will then add the new one as normal.

Choosing to increase the limit will present you with a choice of one, five, or ten. Just select how much you want to add, and the limit will be increased. The new standing order will then be added as normal.

The unregistered version of the program will only allow you to create one standing order on each account, regardless of the value which this limit is set to. It will not offer any of the options described above if you attempt to create more than this.

1.41 Accounts - Delete ...

Accounts - "Delete ..."

This option will only be available if there are two or more accounts in the current file.

When available it will display the

Account Selection list

allowing you to

pick one of the accounts in the current file. Whichever account is chosen will be deleted.

Before deleting the account, the program will confirm that you really want to do so. This is your last chance to change your mind so make sure that you have selected the correct account before clicking on "Yes". If you do not want to delete the account after all just click on "No" and the operation will be cancelled leaving your file untouched.

If you have selected to delete the active account, the next account in the list (or the first account if the active account is already last in the list) will become active and the screen will be updated accordingly.

The active account will not change if another account is deleted. In this case the display will only change if you are viewing the account summary.

1.42 Accounts - Attributes ...

Accounts - "Attributes ..."

This option will only be available if you have already created or loaded a file.

When available it will open the
Account Attributes Requester
allowing you
to edit most of the details for the current set of accounts.

1.43 The Accounts Attributes Requester

The Accounts Attributes Requester.

This requester contains all the fields and buttons necessary to alter the way an existing account operates.

When the requester first opens it will display the details of the active account. These values can be edited at any time.

The "Account Name" field will display the current name of the account. If this value is changed the account will be renamed. If necessary the whole account will be moved to a new position in the account list to ensure that the list remains in alphabetical order. Just as when setting up a new account, it is a free format text field which must contain something. The only other restriction is that the contents should be unique within the file. i.e. no two accounts within a single file can have the same name.

The "Transactions" line shows the current number and the maximum number of transactions. The

limit on the number of transactions
can be changed at

any time simply by altering the value in the "Maximum" box. Just as when creating the account, this can be any number in the range 0-9999 inclusive. If left empty a value of 0 will be assumed which will disable the limit completely. Setting this to a value lower than the current number of transactions (except for 0) will display a warning and you will be given the choice of deleting the extra transactions, setting the maximum to the current number of transactions, or leaving the limit unchanged. If you choose to delete the extra then these will be removed from the start of the transaction list.

The "Standing Orders" line shows the current number and the maximum number of standing orders. The

limit on the number of standing orders
can be

changed at any time simply by altering the value in the "Maximum" box. Just as when creating the account, this can be any number in the range 0-999 inclusive. If left empty a value of 0 will be assumed which will disable the limit completely. Setting this to a value lower than the current number of standing orders (except for 0) will display a warning and you will be given the choice of deleting some completed standing orders, setting the maximum to the current number of standing orders, or leaving the limit unchanged. If you choose to delete the completed standing orders, then only enough will be removed to reach your new limit. If there are not enough to

reach the new limit they will all be deleted and the limit will be set to the number of standing orders left. Note that it is impossible to reduce the limit below the current number of active standing orders. To do so would involve deleting some active information which could be dangerous. If you still wish to decrease the limit you will have to manually delete some active standing orders first.

The "Account Type" selector is used to change the type of the account. Currently the only two options are "Current Account" and "Credit Account". The only difference between these two is that a "Credit Account" can have a credit limit.

The "Current Balance" is a display only field which shows how much money is currently available in the account. For current accounts this will usually (hopefully always) be a positive value indicating how much you have saved. For credit accounts it will usually be a negative value indicating how much you currently owe.

The "Credit Limit" field will only be available if the account type is set to "Credit". It is used to specify the credit limit on the account and can easily be changed at any time. It will usually be a negative value (Debit) and represents how much (of somebody else's) money you are allowed to spend before the account is considered overdrawn. It can also be set to a positive value (Credit) by using the cycle gadget beside it. This might be useful to set a early warning on your bank account so that Easy Money will warn you when you are running low on funds.

The "Credit Remaining" field is also display only. It shows how much you can spend from the account before it will be overdrawn. For current accounts this will be the same as the current balance. For credit accounts it will show the difference between the current balance and the credit limit.

The "OK" button will accept the changes you have made and close the requester. It may be activated by pressing "O", "Return" or "Enter" when none of the text fields are active, or simply by clicking on it with the mouse.

The "Next" button will accept the changes you have made and display the details for the next account in the list. If have just altered the last account the first account will be displayed. The next account will be determined after the current account is changed. This means that if you change the account name the next account will depend on where the current account ends up in the list, not on where it began. The button may be activated by pressing "N" or by clicking on it. If you only have one account in the current file this button will not be available.

The "Cancel" button will close the requester without changing the account. It can be activated by pressing "C" or "Esc" or by clicking on it.

1.44 Accounts - Reconcile - Find Balance ...

Accounts - Reconcile - "Find Balance ..."

This option will only be available if you have one or more transactions in the active account. When available, it will display the

Find Balance

requester

allowing you to enter a target balance or cancel the operation.

If you enter a balance and proceed the program will then attempt to find a set of transactions which together produce the balance you have requested. All other transactions will be deferred.

The objective of this function is to make it easier to mark those transactions which are on your latest bank statement. In theory you just enter the balance on your bank statement and the program will defer any transactions which are not on the statement. In practise it might defer the wrong transactions, for example if you have several transactions for the same amount, so it is always worth checking its selection by hand. For this reason I prefer not to use this function at all and just check everything by hand.

If you find this function useful please tell me about it, otherwise I might drop it from future versions of the program.

This function will only search unchecked transactions since anything which is checked has already been accounted for on previous bank statements. It will defer or undefer any unchecked transactions necessary to give the account balance you have requested. This means that if you have deferred any transactions manually, for example cancelled cheques, and you want these to remain deferred, you should also mark them as checked. If it cannot find the target balance it will leave the transaction list unchanged.

Warning : This operation can take a long time to complete and once started it cannot be stopped. It will search the most recent transactions first, since these are the most likely to be missing from your statement, but if you have entered the wrong balance, or have not kept your account up to date, it will search every possible combination before deciding that your target value cannot be achieved. The actual time taken will depend on the speed of your machine, and also on the number of unchecked transactions in the account. In general, if it does not finish within the first few seconds, it probably will not find the target balance.

1.45 The Find Balance Requester

The Find Balance Requester.

This requester allows you to enter a target balance for the automatic reconciliation function. You just enter the value in the "Required Balance" field and select whether this is a positive or negative value using the "Credit/Debit" cycle gadget. Leaving this field empty will use a value of 0.00 in which case the Credit/Debit setting is not important.

Selecting "Cancel" will abort the search. This may be done by clicking on

the button with the mouse or pressing "C" or "Esc" when the value field is not active.

Selecting "OK" (by clicking on it or pressing "O", "Return" or "Enter") will display a warning that the search might take a long time. This is your last chance to cancel the search. Select "Yes" and the search will proceed, select "No" and it will be cancelled.

1.46 Accounts - Reconcile - Check Undeferred

Accounts - Reconcile - "Check Undeferred"

This option will only be available if you have one or more transactions in the active account. When available, it will mark all undeferred transactions in the active account as checked.

Before doing anything it will ask for confirmation. This will be your last chance to cancel.

This function does not have any practical use except as part of the automatic reconciliation process. In this context it should be used immediately after completing the

Find Balance
search, and before using

the

Clear Defers

option. i.e. Defer all transactions which are not on your bank statement, check everything else, and undefer those transactions again.

1.47 Accounts - Reconcile - Clear Defers

Accounts - Reconcile - "Clear Defers"

This option will only be available if you have one or more transactions in the active account. When available, it will undefer all unchecked transactions in the active account.

Before doing anything it will ask for confirmation. This will be your last chance to cancel.

This function does not have any practical use except as part of the automatic reconciliation process. In this context it should be used after completing both the

Find Balance
search, and the
Check Undeferred

function. i.e. Defer all transactions which are not on your bank

statement, check everything else, and undefer those transactions again.

1.48 Accounts - Printer - Print Transactions

Accounts - Printer - "Print Transactions"

This option will not be available if there are no transactions in the active account. When available it will print the current transaction list to either the printer or to a text file. The exact format of the list will depend on the current settings in the printer setup and will be described in more detail there.

Each line of information printed will be similar to the layout of the information on the transaction screen. However, as it is not possible to use colour (at least not for everyone), checked transactions will be marked with a star in the extreme right hand column and will also be printed in italic, if your printer supports this. Deferred transactions will have their total balance replaced by the word "Deferred". As they are not added to the total, the balance will be the same as on the previous transaction.

This function may be cancelled at any time simply by clicking on the "Cancel" button below the progress bar, or by pressing "Esc" or "C". Note that this will only stop Easy Money from printing any more information. If your printer has a large buffer (most do) it will continue to print until the buffer is empty.

1.49 Accounts - Printer - Print Standing Orders

Accounts - Printer - "Print Standing Orders"

This option will not be available if there are no standing orders in the active account. When available it will print the current standing order list to either the printer or to a text file. The exact format of the list will depend on the current settings in the printer setup and will be described in more detail there.

Each line of information printed will be similar to the layout of the information on the standing order screen. However, as it is not possible to use colour (at least not for everyone), completed standing orders will be marked with a star in the extreme right hand column and will also be printed in italic, if your printer supports this.

This function may be cancelled at any time simply by clicking on the "Cancel" button below the progress bar, or by pressing "Esc" or "C". Note that this will only stop Easy Money from printing any more information. If your printer has a large buffer (most do) it will continue to print until the buffer is empty.

1.50 Accounts - Printer - Print Account Summary

Accounts - Printer - "Print Account Summary"

This option will only be available if you have already created or loaded a file. When available it will print the current account summary to either the printer or to a text file. The exact format of the list will depend on the current settings in the printer setup and will be described in more detail there.

Each line of information printed will be similar to the layout of the information on the account summary screen. However, as it is not possible to use colour (at least not for everyone), overdrawn accounts (the credit left is less than zero) will be marked with a star in the extreme right hand column and will also be printed in italic, if your printer supports this.

This function may be cancelled at any time simply by clicking on the "Cancel" button below the progress bar, or by pressing "Esc" or "C". Note that this will only stop Easy Money from printing any more information. If your printer has a large buffer (most do) it will continue to print until the buffer is empty.

1.51 Accounts - Printer - Printer Setup ...

Accounts - Printer - "Printer Setup ..."

This option is available at all times and simply calls up the Print Setup requester.

1.52 The Print Setup Requester

The Print Setup Requester.

This requester contains seven settings which combine to control the output from the print functions. The default values for these come from various sources but once initialised they will not change unless you change them.

Lines Per Page - This setting is initialised from the system's printer preferences. Changing it will only affect Easy Money's printing routines and will have no effect on the system preferences. It simply controls how many lines will be printed before the program starts a new page. Setting this to too low a value will result in wasted space at the bottom of each page. Too high a value will result in the printer ejecting the page before it is finished.

Paged Output - This setting is initialised from the value stored in the program preferences.

It controls whether the print commands will produce a simple list or will format the output into individual pages, each with its own titles and page numbers. If it is checked then the printed output will be separated into individual pages. At the top of each page there will be a header line showing the account name, the print mode (Transactions/Standing Orders) and the date. The next few lines will show the column headers which appear at the top of the screen. The page number will appear at the bottom of each page, in the format "Page 1 of 2". Since each page will be filled the "Eject Last Page" setting will be switched on and disabled. If it is unchecked then only the selected information will be printed. There will be no headers, page numbers or page breaks, and the "Eject Last Page" setting will be enabled.

Eject Last Page - This setting is initialised from the value stored in the program preferences.

It controls whether the print commands will cause the printer to eject the last page of the printout. If it is checked the last page of each printout will be ejected from the printer. If it is left unchecked the last page of each printout should remain in the printer. This is useful to save paper, since more than one small list may be printed on a single page. However, this will not work for every case. If the last line of the printout happens to be on the last line of the page most printers will automatically eject the page. Some printers (laser printers for example) will always eject the last page, and some third party utilities (PrintManager for example) can be set to eject the last page of every print. If "Paged Output" or "Print to File" are switched on this setting will be disabled. If only "Paged Output" is on, it will be switched on, while "Print to File" will always switch it off.

Stop after each Page - This setting will also take its initial value from the program preferences.

It controls whether the print commands will pause at the end of each page. This is only of use to allow time to load a new page into the printer. However, since most printers now have automatic sheet feeders it is unlikely that this will ever be needed. When you have loaded a new page just click on the "Continue" button. If "Print to File" is switched on, this option will

automatically be switched off and disabled.

Note: this option may be removed in future versions of the program to make space for new options. If you find it useful please let me know so that I will know not to delete it.

- Print to File
- This option will always be switched off when the program is started. It is used to redirect the output of the printer functions to a plain text file. When it is switched on both "Eject Last Page" and "Stop after each Page" will be automatically switched off and disabled. Also, any special printer control codes (such as bold, italics and form feeds) will not be printed. When it is switched on the print functions will display a standard file requester, allowing you to select where the output file should be stored. Simply select an output file, and the function will continue as normal, but all its output will be stored in the file. If the selected file already exists you will be prompted to confirm that it should be overwritten.
- Start Date
- Initially this setting will be empty. It only works for the Print Transactions function and specifies the first date for which any information will be printed. If it contains a date then all transactions on or after that date will be printed. If it is empty then all transactions from the start of the active account will be printed.
- End Date
- This works in much the same way as "Start Date" but it specifies the last date for which any information will be printed. Initially it will be empty. If it contains a date then all transactions on or before that date will be printed. If it is empty then all transactions from the start date to the end of the active account will be printed.

1.53 Transactions - Add ...

Transactions - "Add ..."

This option will only be available if you have already created or loaded a file.

When available it will simply call up the Add Transactions requester

allowing you to add one or more transactions to the active account.

1.54 The Add/Edit Transactions Requester

The Add/Edit Transactions Requester

This requester provides one of several ways to add information to the transaction list of the active account, the others being fund transfers and standing orders.

It also provides the only way to edit any of the existing information. It contains three text boxes, two check boxes and a set of radio buttons for entering or changing the information. It also contains two or three buttons (depending on the exact circumstances) to control the actions of the requester.

Adding Transactions.

When adding a new transaction the "Description" field will always start off empty. It should be used to enter a text description for the new transaction. It can contain any text, the only limitations being that it cannot be left empty and it cannot contain more than 35 characters.

The "Date" field will contain the date of the last transaction added (or edited) to the active account. If you have not added or edited a transaction for the active account since loading the file, the date field will contain the current date.

The "Amount" field will always start empty. It should be used in conjunction with the "Debit/Credit" radio buttons to specify the amount of the new transaction. The number field can only be used to enter a positive value with 2 decimal places at most. If this field is left empty, a value of 0.00 will be used.

The "Debit/Credit" radio buttons are used, together with the "Amount" field, to specify the value of the transaction. The default value will be debit (unfortunately most accounts have more withdrawals than lodgements) so you will only need to change this when you are creating a lodgement.

The "Checked" check box is used to mark a transaction as being checked.

If the box contains a tick the transaction will be checked.

The "Deferred" check box is used to mark a transaction as being deferred.

If the box contains a tick the transaction will be deferred.

Editing Transactions.

When editing an existing transaction all the above fields will contain the relevant information from that transaction. All of them can be changed as

required, the only restrictions being the same as for adding the transaction. i.e. the description field cannot be empty or more than 35 characters, the date must be valid, and the amount can have no more than 2 decimal places.

In either mode the "OK" button is used to accept the changes made and to store the new (or amended) transaction in the account list. It will perform the final validation on the transaction details before closing the requester and storing the details. If any of the fields fails the validation (e.g. the date is not valid or the description is empty) the requester will remain open and you will be told what is wrong and given the opportunity to fix it.

The "Next" button behaves slightly differently in each of the two operating modes. While adding transactions it will always be available, and will perform all the same actions as the "OK" button. However, instead of closing the requester it will just clear the description and amount fields, ready for a new transaction to be added.

While editing transactions the "Next" button may or may not be available. If only one transaction was selected when the edit function was selected, then the button will not be displayed. If two or more transactions were selected, the button will be displayed, but it will be disabled when you are editing the last selected transaction. Again it will perform the same functions as the "OK" button, but this time instead of closing the requester it will display the details of the next selected transaction. Transactions are edited in chronological order, i.e. from the top of the account list down.

In either mode the "Cancel" button is used to close the requester without storing any changes to the current transaction. Note that this will only cancel the changes currently in the requester. If you have already stored one or more transactions with the "Next" button these will still be stored.

1.55 Transactions - Delete

Transactions - "Delete ..."

This option will only be available if you have selected one or more transactions in the active account.

When available it will confirm that you really want to delete the selected transactions. Selecting "No" will abort the operation without making any changes to the account. Selecting "Yes" will delete the selected transactions, recalculate the account, and redisplay the transaction list.

1.56 Transactions - Edit ...

Transactions - "Edit ..."

This option will only be available if you have selected one or more transactions in the active account.

When available it will simply call up the
Edit Transactions
requester
allowing you to edit the selected transactions.

1.57 Transactions - Transfer Funds ...

Transactions - "Transfer Funds ..."

This option will only be available if you have already created or loaded a file with at least two accounts.

When available it will simply call up the
Transfer Funds
requester
allowing one or more fund transfers to be created.

1.58 The Transfer Funds Requester

The Transfer Funds Requester

This requester provides a simple way to transfer money from one account to another. All it does is add a new transaction to each of the selected accounts. One is a debit and the other is a credit. Both will be for the same amount and occur on the same date, but each may have its own description.

The first section of the requester is used to enter the information which may be different on each of the two transactions. The second section is used to enter the information which must be the same for each transaction.

The "Source/Destination" cycle gadget is used to select which transaction the displayed information is for. Clicking on it will redisplay the top section of the requester to show the information already entered for the other transaction. The "Source" transaction will be a debit, the "Destination" will be a credit.

The account list is used to select the account which the money is to be transferred from (Source) or to (Destination). Just click on the desired account and it will be highlighted with a blue bar. You must select a different account for the source and destination transactions, but neither of these needs to be the active account.

The "Checked" check box is used to mark a transaction as being

checked.

If

the box contains a tick the transaction will be checked.

The "Deferred" check box is used to mark a transaction as being deferred.

If the box contains a tick the transaction will be deferred.

The "Description" field is used to enter the textual description for the transactions in just the same way as in the

Add Transaction Requester.

It is possible to enter a different description for each of the ←

transactions, simply by filling in this field for each. If you fill this field for only one (it doesn't matter which one), the same description will be used for both.

The "Date" field is used to enter the date for both transactions. It will not change when the "Source/Destination" button is selected.

Likewise, the "Amount" field applies to both transactions and will not change when the "Source/Destination" is selected. It can only be used to enter a positive value with 2 decimal places at most. However this value will be treated as negative (a debit) for the source account. If this field is left empty, a value of 0.00 will be used.

The "OK" button is used to accept the changes made and to store the new transactions in each of the selected accounts. It will perform the final validation on the entered details before closing the requester and storing the information. If any of the fields fails the validation (e.g. the date is not valid or both selected accounts are the same) the requester will remain open and you will be told what is wrong and given the opportunity to fix it.

The "Next" button will perform all the same actions as the "OK" button. However, instead of closing the requester it will just clear the fields, ready for a new funds transfer to be added.

The "Cancel" button is used to close the requester without storing any of the changes. Note that this will only cancel the changes currently in the requester. If you have already stored one or more fund transfers with the "Next" button these will still be stored.

1.59 Standing Orders - Add ...

Standing Orders - "Add ..."

This option will only be available if you have already created or loaded a file.

When available it will simply call up the
Add Standing Orders

requester

allowing you to add one or more standing orders to the active account.

1.60 The Add/Edit Standing Order Requester

The Add/Edit Standing Order Requester

This requester provides one of two ways to add information to the standing order list of the active account, the other being a fund transfer.

It

also provides the only way to edit any of the existing information. It contains four text boxes, and several other gadgets for entering or changing the information. It also contains two or three buttons (depending on the exact circumstances) to control the actions of the requester.

Adding Standing Orders.

When adding a new standing order the "Description" field will always start off empty. It should be used to enter a textual description for the new standing order. This description will be copied to any transactions automatically created by the standing order. It can contain any text, the only limitations being that it cannot be left empty and it cannot contain more than 35 characters.

The "Start Date" field will contain the start date of the last standing order added (or edited) to the active account. If you have not added or edited a standing order for the active account since loading the file, the start date field will contain the current date. This field must always contain a valid date. This date will be the date of the first transaction to be created by the standing order. The dates of subsequent transactions will be calculated using this value and the frequency of the standing order.

The "End Date" field will contain the end date of the last standing order added (or edited) to the active account. If you have not added or edited a standing order for the active account since loading the file, the end date field will be empty. If this field is left empty the standing order will not have an end date and will run forever. If it is filled in (it must contain a valid date which cannot be before the start date) no transactions will be created after this date. If a transaction is due on the end date it will be created.

The "Amount" field will always start empty. It should be used in conjunction with the "Debit/Credit" radio buttons to specify the amount of the new standing order. The number field can only be used to enter a positive value with 2 decimal places at most. If this field is left empty, a value of 0.00 will be used. This value will be used for each transaction created by the standing order.

The "Debit/Credit" radio buttons are used, together with the "Amount" field, to specify the value of the standing order, and therefore the value of any transactions created by it. The default value will be debit (unfortunately most accounts have more withdrawals than lodgements) so you will only need

to change this when you are creating a lodgement.

The Frequency cycle gadget is used to select how often the standing order will occur. It will default to a value of Monthly, but there are seven values to choose from. These are Weekly (every 7 days), Fortnightly (every 14 days), Lunar Monthly (every 28 days), Monthly (on the same date every month), Quarterly (on the same date every 3 months), Half Yearly (on the same date every 6 months) and Annually (on the same date every year).

Note that in some cases it will not be possible to keep all monthly standing orders on the same day, for example those with a start date on January 31st. In cases like this Easy Money will add the transactions on the last day of the month. This would result in the sequence 31/01, 28/02 (29/02 in a leap year), 31/03, 30/04, 31/05, etc.

Editing Transactions.

When editing an existing standing order all the above fields will contain the relevant information from that standing order. All of them can be changed as required, the only restrictions being the same as for creating the standing order. i.e. the description field cannot be empty or more than 35 characters, the dates must be valid, and the amount can have no more than 2 decimal places.

Every time you edit a standing order Easy Money will automatically update the transaction list to reflect the changes. In most cases it will do this by deleting all the transactions already created for the standing order and creating a completely new set. Unfortunately this will mean that the checked/deferred status of the deleted transactions will be lost. This could be annoying if you have not changed anything important, so in limited situations the existing transactions will just be altered. This is possible if only the "End Date" or "Description" fields have been changed.

In both modes the "Terminate" button may be used as an easy way of ending a standing order immediately. It will simply place the current date into the "End Date" field, but only if the standing order is still valid. It will have no effect on already complete standing orders.

The "Still Valid / Completed" display serves no function, other than to give a visual indication of whether a standing order has expired or not.

In either mode the "OK" button is used to accept the changes made and to store the new (or amended) standing order in the account list. It will perform the final validation on the standing order details before closing the requester, storing the details and creating any transactions which are overdue. If any of the fields fails the validation (e.g. a date is not valid or the description is empty) the requester will remain open and you will be told what is wrong and given the opportunity to fix it.

The "Next" button behaves slightly differently in each of the two operating modes. While adding standing orders it will always be available, and will perform all the same actions as the "OK" button. However, instead of closing the requester it will just clear the description and amount fields and reset the frequency to monthly, ready for a new standing order to be

added.

While editing standing orders the "Next" button may or may not be available. If only one standing order was selected when the edit function was selected, then the button will not be displayed. If two or more standing orders were selected, the button will be displayed, but it will be disabled when you are editing the last selected standing order. Again it will perform the same functions as the "OK" button, but this time instead of closing the requester it will display the details of the next selected standing order. Standing orders are edited in order, from the top of the account list down.

In either mode the "Cancel" button is used to close the requester without storing any changes to the current standing order. Note that this will only cancel the changes currently in the requester. If you have already stored one or more standing orders with the "Next" button these will still be stored.

1.61 Standing Orders - Delete

Standing Orders - "Delete"

This option will only be available if you have selected one or more standing orders in the active account.

When available it will confirm that you really want to delete the selected standing orders. Selecting "No" will abort the operation without making any changes to the account. Selecting "Yes" will delete the selected standing orders (and possibly the transactions created by them) and redisplay the standing order list.

If a standing order is completed then only the standing order will be deleted. However, if the standing order is still valid it will be displayed and you will be asked if its transactions should also be deleted. If you select "No" then only the standing order will be deleted. If you select "Yes" then all transactions already created by the standing order will also be deleted, and the account will be recalculated. This process will be repeated for each selected standing order.

1.62 Standing Orders - Edit ...

Standing Orders - "Edit ..."

This option will only be available if you have selected one or more standing orders in the active account.

When available it will simply call up the

Edit Standing Order
 requester
allowing you to edit the selected standing orders.

1.63 Standing Orders - Transfer Funds ...

 Standing Orders - "Transfer Funds ..."

This option will only be available if you have already created or loaded a file with at least two accounts.

When available it will simply call up the
 Transfer Funds
 requester
allowing one or more recurring fund transfers to be created.

1.64 The Transfer Funds Requester

 The Transfer Funds Requester

This requester provides a simple way to transfer money from one account to another on a regular basis. All it does is add a new standing order to each of the selected accounts. One is a debit and the other is a credit. Both will be for the same amount, start and end on the same dates and occur at the same frequency, but each may have its own description.

The "Source/Destination" cycle gadget is used to select which standing order the displayed information is for. Clicking on it will redisplay the top section of the requester to show the information already entered for the other transaction. The "Source" will be a debit, the "Destination" will be a credit.

The account list is used to select the account which the money is to be transferred from (Source) or to (Destination). Just click on the desired account and it will be highlighted with a blue bar. You must select a different account for the source and destination standing orders, but neither of these needs to be the active account.

The "Description" field is used to enter the textual description for the standing orders (and their transactions) in just the same way as in the

 Add Standing Order Requester.

 It is possible to enter a different description for each of the standing orders, simply by filling in this field for each. If you fill this field for only one (it doesn't matter which one), the same description will be used for both.

The "Start Date" and "End Date" fields are used to enter the date range for both standing orders. Just like adding a single standing order, the start

date must be supplied and the end date is optional. If the end date is supplied it must not be before the start date. These fields will not change when the "Source/Destination" button is selected.

Likewise, the "Amount" field applies to both standing orders and will not change when the "Source/Destination" is selected. It can only be used to enter a positive value with 2 decimal places at most. However this value will be treated as negative (a debit) for the source account. If this field is left empty, a value of 0.00 will be used.

The "Frequency" cycle gadget also applies to both standing orders and will not change when the "Source/Destination" is selected. It provides the same seven frequencies as in the

Add Standing Order Requester.

The "OK" button is used to accept the changes made and to ↔ store the new

standing orders in each of the selected accounts. It will perform the final validation on the entered details before closing the requester, storing the information and creating any overdue transactions. If any of the fields fails the validation (e.g. the date is not valid or both selected accounts are the same) the requester will remain open and you will be told what is wrong and given the opportunity to fix it.

The "Next" button will perform all the same actions as the "OK" button. However, instead of closing the requester it will just clear the fields, ready for a new funds transfer to be added.

The "Cancel" button is used to close the requester without storing any of the changes. Note that this will only cancel the changes currently in the requester. If you have already stored one or more fund transfers with the "Next" button these will still be stored.

1.65 Displays - Transactions ...

Displays - "Transactions ..."

This option is used to change the display to the Transactions Screen.

It

will only be available if the transaction screen is not currently displayed.

1.66 Displays - Standing Orders ...

Displays - "Standing Orders ..."

This option is used to change the display to the Standing Orders Screen.

It will only be available if the standing order screen is not ↔ currently

displayed.

1.67 Displays - Account Summary ...

Displays - "Account Summary ..."

This option is used to change the display to the Account Summary Screen.

It will only be available if the account summary screen is not ←
currently
displayed.

1.68 Tools - Preferences ...

Tools - "Preferences ..."

This requester is always available and is used to alter the way the program behaves. It is divided into three sections, namely

Miscellaneous,

File Settings
and
Printer Setup.

It also has a menu system allowing
you to save more than one setup to disk.

Miscellaneous.

This section contains four settings.

The "Default Maximum Transactions" and "Default Maximum Standing Orders" values are used when creating a new account. They are simply used as the starting values for the Maximum Transactions and Standing Order fields. Changing the values in these fields will not affect any accounts which have already been created. Changes to these values will take effect immediately.

The "Confirm Date" check box only has an effect when starting the program. If it is checked the

Change Date Requester
will be displayed every time

the program is started. This is really only of use if your machine does not have a real-time clock. In this case the default value will be wrong (probably 01/01/70) and you will have the option to correct it. If you do have a real-time clock the default value should be the correct current date, and you will probably want to switch this function off.

The "Use Password" check box is used to determine if new files should be password protected. It does not affect any existing files. If it is

checked you will be prompted for a password the first time you try to save a new file, unless you have already supplied one or switched off the password for the current file using the

Password Selection Requester.
File Settings.

This section contains three settings all of which affect the way the program will save files.

The "Save Directory" field is used to select a default directory to use for loading and saving files. You can enter relative or absolute pathnames or you can use button on the right to select a path using a file requester. Relative pathnames will be taken from the directory in which Easy Money is installed. Leaving the field blank will use the current program directory. This value is used only as a default directory for saving or loading new files. You can still load files from anywhere and they will always be saved back to the same place.

The "Make Backups" check box is used to tell Easy Money to backup the old version of a file before a new one is saved. If it is checked the previous backup file (if any) will be deleted, the previous version of the current file will be renamed to the backup (.BAK will be added), and the new version will be saved. If it is not checked the new file will simply be saved over the previous copy.

The "Save Icons" check box tells Easy Money to save an icon with every datafile if one does not already exist. Double clicking on these icons will load Easy Money which will then automatically load the data file. If an icon already exists for a file it will not be replaced. The imagery for the new icon is taken from the file EM_Def_Icon.info in the PROGDIR:Icon/ directory. If you want to change the imagery for new icons, just replace this file.

Printer Setup.

This section contains three settings all of which affect the default values used in the

printer setup requester.

These values are only used when the program is started, so you will have to save the preferences before they will make any difference.

The Menu.

Restore - This will reset the requester to display the values currently being used by the program.

Load Default - This will reload the programs default preferences and display them. Note that the loaded settings will take effect even if you cancel the requester.

Load Other ... - This will display a file requester allowing you to select a preferences file to load. Once you have selected a file it will be loaded and displayed. The new settings will take effect even if you cancel the requester.

- Save Default - This will take the details currently displayed in the requester and save them as the program's default preferences.
- Save As ... - This will display a file requester allowing you to select a new filename. The details currently displayed in the requester will then be saved to the selected file.
- Use Current - This is used to transfer the currently displayed details to the programs preferences. The new settings will take effect but will not be saved to disk.
- Cancel - This will just close the requester without making any changes.

The requester also has three buttons at the bottom.

The "Save" button is used to save the programs default settings. It performs the same function as the "Save Default" menu option, except that it will also close the requester.

The "Use" button is used to alter the programs behaviour without saving the preferences to disk. It performs the same function as the "Use Current" menu option, except that it will also close the requester.

The "Cancel" button will just close the requester without making any changes.

1.69 Tools - Change Date ...

Tools - "Change Date ..."

This option is used to change the current date and will always be available. It has no effect on your machine's actual clock. It simply alters the date which Easy Money thinks is today, and updates all the accounts accordingly.

Simply enter a valid date and click on "OK" to make the change. Selecting "Cancel" will abort the operation, making no changes to the loaded file.

This same option is used to check the current date when starting the program, if you have the

Confirm Date

option switched on. In this case

there will be no cancel button.

1.70 Tools - Calculator ...

Tools - "Calculator ..."

This option will always be available assuming that Easy Money has been able to run the calculator program. If it is disabled then the calculator did not start for some reason. A possible reason would be lack of memory, but it is much more likely that the calculator has not been installed, or at least not installed correctly.

When available it will either display or hide the calculator. When the calculator is visible (even if it is minimized) there will be a tick beside the menu entry.

You can continue to use Easy Money when the calculator is displayed. If you quit Easy Money when the calculator is open, the calculator will automatically close.

When the calculator window is active you can control it using the keyboard. * is used for multiplication, / for division, + for addition, - for subtraction, and = or Enter to complete the calculation.

The usual operator precedence applies so all multiplication and division will take effect before addition and subtraction.

1.71 Program History.

The Program's History.

V1.00 01/01/98 - Initial Release.

1.72 Possible ideas for future versions.

Possible ideas for the future.

- Full search facilities for transactions and standing orders.
- Hot keys for the most used accounts.
- Automatic saving at regular (user definable) intervals.
- Copy functions for accounts, transactions and standing orders.
- Merge two or more accounts within a single file.
- Keyboard control for warning requesters.
- Context sensitive help in AmigaGuide format.
- Localisation.
- Improved integration of the calculator.
- User definable toolbars.
- A resizable interface (possibly using MUI).
- Option to abort the "Reconcile - Find Balance" function. I might just remove the reconcile functions completely because I do not find them very useful. If you use them please tell me about it so that I will know not to delete them.

Future versions may have more limitations placed on unregistered users.

1.73 Updates.

Updates.

Major updates to Easy Money (new features added, or serious bug fixes) will be released on the Aminet (biz/misc) and also on the Easy Money support site (accessed from my homepage at "www.bitsmart.com/asavage").

Minor updates and bug fixes will only be released via the support site.

Most good Public Domain libraries should be able to get these for you if you do not have access to the Internet.

Alternatively, you can order the latest version direct from me, free of charge, simply by sending a stamped self addressed padded envelope and a blank disk to the address shown below. Just include a short note to say that you want the latest version of Easy Money. Please ensure that you have included sufficient postage for the disk to be mailed back to you. I will not be held responsible for disks lost or damaged in the post.

Registered users will not need a new key-file or a special version of the program. All existing key-files will continue to operate with future versions of the program. i.e. If you register for one version of Easy Money, you automatically register for them all.

Mr. Allan Savage
2 Navar Drive
Gransha Road
Bangor
N. Ireland
BT19 7SW

1.74 Legal Stuff.

Easy Money is Copyright © Allan Savage 1995/1998.
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Easy Money is shareware, and as such the archive is freely distributable, providing that no commercial gain is made from its distribution, and no modification is made to the original archive.

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1.75 Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements.

The program was compiled using DICE v2.07.56 R and its interface was designed using GadToolsBox v37.300. Thanks to Matthew Dillon and Jan van den Baard for these excellent programs.

My thanks also go to :

- my father for his help in testing Easy Money ever since it became usable.
- my mother for suggesting a couple of minor improvements in the operation of the program.

1.76 How to contact me

Feedback.

If you have any questions about using the program, please check the F.A.Q. on the support site (accessed from my homepage at the address given below) before contacting me. If your question is not answered there, or you do not have access to it, then please feel free to contact me directly. I cannot guarantee to respond to every question, but I will at least try to respond to all registered users who are having difficulties.

If you have a bug to report, please send details to me at one of the

addresses below. Please include details of your hardware configuration, a list of any other software you were running, and a full description of what you did and what actually happened. Also please indicate if the problem was repeatable, i.e. if you did the same thing again did the same problem occur?

Any other feedback is always welcome, negative as well as positive. I am constantly looking for new ways to improve Easy Money.

W.W.W. : <http://www.bitsmart.com/asavage>

E-Mail : asavage@bitsmart.com (preferred option)

Post : Mr. Allan Savage
2 Navar Drive
Gransha Road
Bangor
N. Ireland
BT19 7SW