

**NRcobol**

cHArRiOTt

**COLLABORATORS**

	<i>TITLE :</i> NRcobol		
<i>ACTION</i>	<i>NAME</i>	<i>DATE</i>	<i>SIGNATURE</i>
WRITTEN BY	cHArRiOTt	July 31, 2024	

**REVISION HISTORY**

NUMBER	DATE	DESCRIPTION	NAME

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>NRcobol</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1	main . . . . .	1
1.2	introduction . . . . .	1
1.3	installation . . . . .	2
1.4	usage . . . . .	3
1.5	errors . . . . .	5
1.6	debug . . . . .	7
1.7	syntax . . . . .	7
1.8	ok . . . . .	8
1.9	a . . . . .	9
1.10	b . . . . .	9
1.11	programsyntax . . . . .	9
1.12	identification . . . . .	10
1.13	environment . . . . .	11
1.14	data . . . . .	12
1.15	procedure . . . . .	12
1.16	example . . . . .	12
1.17	later! . . . . .	14
1.18	accept . . . . .	14
1.19	display . . . . .	15
1.20	entry . . . . .	16
1.21	implemented? . . . . .	16
1.22	history . . . . .	17
1.23	todo . . . . .	21
1.24	bugs . . . . .	22
1.25	final . . . . .	22
1.26	feedback . . . . .	22
1.27	contacts . . . . .	23
1.28	greetings . . . . .	23
1.29	distribution . . . . .	24

---

---

1.30 credits . . . . .	25
1.31 disclaimer . . . . .	25
1.32 1.5 Author . . . . .	26
1.33 urouauthor . . . . .	26
1.34 sorry! . . . . .	27
1.35 thank-you! . . . . .	28

---

# Chapter 1

# NRcobol

## 1.1 main

NRcobol 1.0g Copyright ©1997–1999 by cHArRiOTt

Introduction  
Installation  
Usage  
Syntax  
Implemented?  
History  
Todo  
Bugs  
Feedback  
Contacts  
Salutations  
Distribution  
Credits  
Disclimer

Apologies  
Thank You  
and finally?

NUff REsPEct.....peace n more time.

## 1.2 introduction

Why COBOL?

\*\*\*\*\*

---

To those of you thinking not another new language, COBOL is in fact one of the oldest high-level languages, its roots going back to the late 1950's. Ofcourse there are those of you who already know this but regard COBOL as not so much an high-level language, as the original computer virus. To these people i say RESPECT the source of the mother tounge. (sic!)

When so many languages have come and gone (what ever happended to Modulus II, and who outside of the Amiga community has heard of 'E;), COBOL (with the most source code on the planet, circa 89) has seen in the advent of STRUCTURED, and ←  
now  
OBJECT methodologies, its adapted absorbing the latest in Database Management, SQL etcetera, and gone on from strength to strength. Indeed as an introduction to records there's alot to be said in its favour. So when people say why, i say why not?

This implementation of COBOL is largely ANSI 85 compatable and takes the form of MicroSoft(TM) COBOL, with maybe the exception of some stuff in ENVIRONMENT DIVISION - SPECIAL-NAMES. And some stuff left over from the days when memory was premium and no one had the imagination to contemplate speed. see Implemented?

This would have been bought to you sooner, if it weren't for the moron, in the bedsit downstairs, with something of an habit!! which in lean times even extend to a fixation with gas. 'would you adam n eve it'.

WARNING dope really @&\*\$% you up! something to do with short term memory going to pot!

STOP THE PRESS!.

"COMPUTING" MAY 8th 97

'Cobol crisis looms' The skills crisis is luring Cobol programmers out of retirement with offers of up to £1000 (\$1700) per day..... hmm :-)

## 1.3 installation

Installation  
\*\*\*\*\*

Nothing could be simpiler, Just copy the runtime program 'RUNCOB' anywhere in your path, that's ram: c: or in the same directory as the created .INT files.

Files with the extension .INT are created as a result of successfully running NRCOBOL ..see Usage

There are several ToolTypes which you'll need to tailor to suite your system. To access these single click on the icon of NRCOBOL, then select information from the sysem menu to find the following:

TEXTEDITOR=C:ed  
 edit cobol source file.

TEXTVIEWER=sys:utilities/multiview  
 view list / debug files, if not set then the editor set for TEXTEDITOR  
 is used.

SOURCEDIR=  
 where cobol source files are to found by NRCOBOL's requester  
 RUNCOBDIR=  
 where runcob prog is to be found, default ram: c: or current directory  
 Note: the absence of a space after the '=' and in the case of SOURCEDIR  
 and RUNCOBDIR if a directory is stated it should end with ':' or '/'

To avoid those moments of head scratching, you are advised to use ABSOLUTE  
 path names. see.. Thank You

If you are one the few who haven't yet discovered 'UrouHack' by Tinic Urou  
 then i urge you to get hold of a copy aminet util/wb. This prog redefines  
 the system gadgets to very impressive xen like gadgets and leaves the rest  
 of the system looking like MUI, and then some, without slowing the system  
 down. If that's not reason enough, it also improves the appearance of this  
 prog :)

## 1.4 usage

Usage

\*\*\*\*\*

After creating your cobol source file with your favourite text editor,  
 and saving it with the .COB extention you have a choise of evoking the  
 compiler from CLI/shell or Workbench.

From CLI/SHELL

NRCOBOL <sourcefile>.(COB | CBL) [-l] [-d] [-e] [-r]

where the optional flags:

-l produces a simple listing <sourcefile>.LST  
 -d produces a debug listing <sourcefile>.DBG  
 -e errors terminate compilation. [wildcard option]  
 -r Report file '.NRCOBOL.report' OFF. [wildcard option]

The wildcard pattern match option will now recognize #?.(cob|cbl)

A successfull compilation produces <sourcefile>.INT  
 to run type... RUNCOB <sourcefile>.INT



- 5, Remembers the current directory, the next time you use NRCOBOL.
- 6, Terminal runtime check on SIZE ERROR condition.
- 7, ditto for OVERFLOW ERROR.
- 8, switch zone check from error to non terminal warnings
- 9, Runtime Trace, compilation creates <sourcefile>.TRC file for special DEBUG environment mode. see... Runtime Trace

In both cases an ICON is produced named <sourcefile>.INT to execute just double click.

The debug option produces a file which you may find useful in locating runtime errors, which sadly is normal for cobol. Usually this is to do with uninitialised variables, you know, finding alpha data in a numeric field.

Runtime errors usually return a value in the form 0x????, where 0x???? is an offset into the data space allocated in the Data Division. Stradling values, ie value between offset values indicates a position within a table, (a subscripted identifier). see... Runtime Errors

For those of you looking to automate compilation, possibly using Arexx, the following codes are now returned by NRCOBOL:

```
8000 nrcobol ?   called
8001 filename   error
8002 compilation error
8003 savefile   error (.int or T:debug_) file
8004 identifier limits
8005 too many files found with wildcard. [500 max]
1002 memory    error
```

## 1.5 errors

Runtime Errors  
\*\*\*\*\*

Occasionally Runcob will abort with a message on the last line of the screen. This is quite normal.

Here are all the messages to date, with the possible reason for the message:

```
Identifier(s)
  Non numeric
  Size overflow
  Divide by zero
  Whole exponential expected
  Exponential to large
```

Type conflict  
Sign error  
Integer error

Subscripts error  
String Overflow error  
Reference modifier error  
Depend range exceeded  
Arithmetic error

OS

Intuition failure  
Diskfont failure  
Screen failure  
Graphics failure  
Window failure

Program error  
Program ok for now!  
Overlapping structures

Function not yet implemented!  
Program aborted

Resouces

Not enough memory  
Unable to open sys device  
Arithmetic stack error  
Function error  
Display error

File i-o

Read error  
Read Boundary error      ...check file format/organization  
Write error  
Index file error  
General file error  
Relative file error  
File mode error      ...check OPEN mode's related to I-O statement  
Invalid key error  
File End error  
Linage error  
Sort error  
Merge error

SubProgram

Call/Exit error  
Call/Exit Nested error  
Call/Exit Recursive error

Sorry!, even i dont know  
Unknown error code

Most of these you should never come across, but if you do....

---

## 1.6 debug

Animator

\*\*\*\*\*

The Debug mode is activated when the 'RUN' button is pressed after a file has been compiled in 'Runtime Trace' mode. This opens a window which allows a program's operation to be traced.

The options are:

```

STEP          single step through program code
STEP THR      step over PERFORM/CALL statements
STEP ALL      automatically step through ALL code lines untill STEP or PAUSE.

RUN  THR      Execute code at normal speed untill STOP RUN or a BreakPoint is ←
              encountered.
              A BreakPoint is set when the user clicks on any legal line of ←
              code.
              A 'T' in column 7 flags a BreakPoint or Traced line.

PAUSE         used to halt STEP ALL, without affecting STEP ALL's speed.

EXAMINE       Opens a window which shows all defined identifiers.
              single click reveals contents.

```

The 'Examine' window now supports 'Find First' and 'Find Next'.  
 In the main 'Animator' window, (double) select the closest legal line to ←  
 required 'data-name'

then select:

```

FIND FIRST locates and highlights first 'data-name'
FIND NEXT  locates next relative 'data-name'

```

if you like, let me know. Ideas for improvements welcomed!

## 1.7 syntax

Syntax

\*\*\*\*\*

I may at a later date add the syntax, in the mean time the following books are recommended:

- COBOL for the IBM Personal Computer by kip R Irvine
- COBOL for the 80's by J Wayne Spence
- Structured Programming in COBOL by B J Holmes

- COBOL 85 for programmers by Jim Inglis
- COBOL for students, fourth edition by Andrew Parkin  
Richard Yorke

OK go on then..

## 1.8 ok

The basics

\*\*\*\*\*

The Syntax of the COBOL Language

At the moment COBOL has strict rules on where different parts of the program should be, a legacy of the days of coding sheets. So lets start with the ruler ←

The COBOL Ruler and the COBOL Source File Program Syntax

```

      1         2         3         4         5         6         7
123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789
      ^^         ^
      ||
      |The A Zone  The B Zone
      |

```

The seventh column is reserved for several special purposes. These are: \* / - D \$

'\*': When the 7th column contains an '\*' , the entire line is taken to be a comment.

'//': A '/' in the 7th column behaves in much the same way as an asterisk, in that the entire line is taken to be a comment. The only difference is that in the compiler listing [if one is produced] there will be a page break before the comment is printed. This can be used to enhance the readability of the source listing. See examples.

'-': When the 7th column contains a '-' , the line is taken to be a continuation of the previous line. See examples.

'D': The letter 'D' in the 7th column flags the line as a debugging line. The line will be conditionally compiled for debugging. If the source-computer paragraph has the phrase WITH DEBUGGING MODE, the line will be compiled. This feaure is used by some compilers to provide a program trace. See example.

'\$': this is used signal the use of a limited set of compiler directives:

```
$IF constant-name [NOT] DEFINED
$IF constant-name [NOT] < > = literal

$ELSE
$END
$EJECT          ...form feeds listing.

$SET CONSTANT literal See example.
alternately a constant can be defined as level 78 literal
```

'T': keep watching this space.

## 1.9 a

The A Margin  
\*\*\*\*\*

Positions 8-11 is used in general for Division, Section and Paragraph names. The execption to this being the 01 level label in the data division. See example.

## 1.10 b

The B Margin  
\*\*\*\*\*

Positions 12-72 used for data and programe code.  
Note comment entry are allowed in some compilers from position 73+.  
See example

## 1.11 programsyntax

Program Syntax  
\*\*\*\*\*

---

Any COBOL program is composed of exactly four divisions: identification, environment, data and procedure. These divisions appear explicitly in the COBOL source in the form:

```
division name  DIVISION.
```

Each division may be further subdivided into sections and paragraphs. For further information, select from the following list of divisions:

- The IDENTIFICATION Division
- The ENVIRONMENT division
- The DATA division
- The PROCEDURE division

If you have a problem remembering the exact order in which the divisions must appear in the COBOL source file, try the mnemonic: "I Enjoy Data Processing", or even "In Every Dam Program, there are four divisions". See example

## 1.12 identification

The IDENTIFICATION Division  
\*\*\*\*\*

The identification division provides information about the program. Of this information, only the name of the program, specified in the PROGRAM-ID paragraph, is essential.

```
IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.  
PROGRAM-ID. program-name.  
[AUTHOR. comment.]  
[INSTALLATION. comment]  
[DATE-WRITTEN. comment]  
[DATE-COMPILED. comment]  
[SECURITY. comment]
```

The program name is just a user-defined name. It doesn't seem to have much of a use, and therefore some authors recommend that if at all possible [given OS constraints], the program name should be chosen to equal the name of the source file.

The compilation date paragraph contains the date of the most recent compilation.

Supposedly some COBOL compilers, VAX-COBOL and IBM COBOL/2 (thanks ron) will

---

automatically update the comment in this paragraph each time the program is re-compiled, but why?

A user-defined name is a sequence of characters satisfying the following conditions:

The length of a user-defined name cannot exceed 30 characters.

- A user defined name can contain letters, digits, or the hyphen.
- A user-defined name cannot begin with a hyphen.
- A user-defined name must contain at least one letter.

See example

## 1.13 environment

The ENVIRONMENT Division  
\*\*\*\*\*

The purpose of the environment division is to abstract out of the program all of its system-dependent aspects. Some of those aspects are:

Information for humans, on the type of computers used for development and execution of the given program.

Information as to the character set assumed throughout the program, as well as any special aliases the programmer might want to use.

Comment fields provide information on the development and target computers.

```
ENVIRONMENT DIVISION.  
[CONFIGURATION SECTION]  
[SOURCE-COMPUTER. [comment [with DEBUGGING MODE].]]  
[OBJECT-COMPUTER. [comment.]]  
[INPUT-OUTPUT SECTION]  
[SPECIAL-NAMES.  
[SWITCH ....]  
[ALPHABET ..] syntax only  
[CLASS ....]  
[CURRENCY sign is literal]  
[DECIMAL-POINT is COMMA].]
```

See example

---

## 1.14 data

The DATA Division

\*\*\*\*\*

```

DATA DIVISION.
[SUB-SCHEMA SECTION.]
[FILE SECTION.]
[WORKING-STORAGE SECTION.]
[LINKAGE SECTION.]
[COMMUNICATION SECTION.]
[REPORT SECTION.]
[SCREEN SECTION.]
...as MicroSoft (TM) COBOL 2.xx

```

See example

## 1.15 procedure

The PROCEDURE Division

\*\*\*\*\*

```

PROCEDURE DIVISION.
...

```

ACCEPT	ADD	CALL	CANCEL
CLOSE	COMPUTE	CONTINUE	DELETE
DISPLAY	DIVIDE	EVALUATE	EXIT
GO	IF	INITIALIZE	INSPECT
MERGE	MOVE	MULTIPLY	OPEN
PERFORM	READ	RELEASE	RETURN
REWRITE	SEARCH	SET	SORT
START	STOP	STRING	SUBTRACT
UNSTRING	USE	WRITE	
ENTRY			

See example

## 1.16 example

Example Cobol source

\*\*\*\*\*

OK, this is short hello to cobol for more involed examples see the files (extension .cob) accompanying this release. The key thing to note is the requirement of the verbs STOP RUN and the use of 'fullstops'

to define the scope of a COBOL statement. LIN and COL are system defined.

```

*ROUTINE TO DISPLAY A MULTIPLICATION GRID.
~~~~~ IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.
~~~~~ PROGRAM-ID. EXAMPLE.
~~~~~ AUTHOR. C HARRIOTT.
~~~~~*
~~~~~ ENVIRONMENT DIVISION.
      CONFIGURATION SECTION.
      SOURCE-COMPUTER. AMIGA A1200 WITH DEBUGGING MODE.
~~~~~*
~~~~~ DATA DIVISION.
~~~~~ WORKING-STORAGE SECTION.
~~~~~ 01 WS-X-SCREEN-DFT PIC 99 VALUE 10.
~~~~~ 01 WS-Y-SCREEN-DFT PIC 99 VALUE 05.
~~~~~ 01 WS-XY-PRODUCT PIC 9(3).

      78 CONSTANT-TEST1 VALUE 13.
      78 CONSTANT-TEST2 VALUE 50 * CONSTANT-TEST1 / 2.
      78 CONSTANT-TEST3 VALUE "string literal".

      01 WS-COUNTERS.
         05 WS-Y-ROW PIC 99.
~~~~~ 05 WS-X-COLUMN PIC 99.
~~~~~ 05 WS-X-POS PIC 99.
~~~~~ 05 WS-Y-POS PIC 99.
      01 WS-BUTTON PIC X(8) VALUE "PRESS ME".
~~~~~*
~~~~~*
~~~~~ PROCEDURE DIVISION.
~~~~~ 001-MAIN.
      DISPLAY (1 , 10)
      "Routine to CALCULATE and DISPLAY a MULTIPLICATION TABLE".
      MOVE ZEROS TO WS-COUNTERS.
      PERFORM 002-ROWS
      VARYING WS-Y-ROW FROM 1 BY 1 UNTIL WS-Y-ROW > 10.
      STOP RUN.
~~~~~*
~~~~~*
~~~~~ 002-ROWS.
      MOVE ZEROS TO WS-X-COLUMN.
      PERFORM 003-COLUMNS
      VARYING WS-X-COLUMN FROM 1 BY 1 UNTIL WS-X-COLUMN > 10.
~~~~~*
~~~~~*
~~~~~ 003-COLUMNS.
      MOVE ZEROS TO WS-X-POS.
      MULTIPLY WS-X-COLUMN BY 5 GIVING WS-X-POS.
      ADD WS-X-SCREEN-DFT TO WS-X-POS.
~~~~~*
~~~~~ MOVE ZEROS TO WS-Y-POS.
~~~~~ MOVE WS-Y-ROW TO WS-Y-POS.
~~~~~ ADD WS-Y-SCREEN-DFT TO WS-Y-POS.
~~~~~*
~~~~~ MULTIPLY WS-Y-ROW BY WS-X-COLUMN

```

```

~~~~~
                GIVING WS-XY-PRODUCT.
~~~~~
    PERFORM 004-DISPLAY-PRODUCT.
    *
~~~~~*
~~~~~ 004-DISPLAY-PRODUCT.
    D    PERFORM 005-DEBUG.
        MOVE WS-Y-POS TO LIN.
        MOVE WS-X-POS TO COL.
~~~~~
    DISPLAY (LIN , COL) WS-XY-PRODUCT.
    ~*
    D005-DEBUG.
    D    DISPLAY (24 5) "Debug optioned: X-POS = " WS-X-POS
    D    " , Y-POS = " WS-Y-POS.
    *    ACCEPT (24 50) WS-BUTTON FROM AMIGA-BUTTON.

    $if constant-test1 defined
    $if constant-test2 = 325
        DISPLAY "compiled as directed!".

    $end
    $else
        DISPLAY "constant-test1 not found!".
    $end
~~~~~*****END*****

```

## 1.17 later!

```

LATER!
*****

```

To be continued, but who knows when?

## 1.18 accept

```

ACCEPT
*****

```

ACCEPT identifier.

ACCEPT identifier FROM {DATE |DAY |TIME |DAY-OF-WEEK |INTEGER-OF-DATE | ↔  
INTEGER-OF-DAY |AMIGA-BUTTON}.

DATE	YYMMDD
DAY	YYDDD
TIME	HHMMSShh
DAY-OF-WEEK	D sunday == 0
INTEGER-OF-DATE	YYYYMMDD
INTEGER-OF-DAY	YYYYDDD
TODAYS-DATE	YYMMDD

## AMIGA-BUTTON

```
ACCEPT *screenrecord ON ESCAPE imperative(s) . . .
```

```
ACCEPT [(integer-1, integer-2)] identifier(s)
ACCEPT                                identifier(s) [AT integer-3]
```

```
ACCEPT                                identifier(s)
    [ [AT] LINE [NUMBER] integer-4 COLUMN [NUMBER] integer-5 ]
```

```
*screenrecord as defined by MicroSoft(TM) Cobol 2.xx
```

```
integer-1, integer-4 : 1 - 25  if >25 <CR>
integer-2, integer-5 : 1 - 80  while( >80 ) <CR> -80...
integer-3            : 2580 or 025080

fatscreen           : 48 lines by 132 column
```

**1.19 display**

```
DISPLAY
```

```
*****
```

```
DISPLAY {identifier | literal}...
```

```
DISPLAY *screenrecord .
```

```
DISPLAY [(integer-1, integer-2)]
    {identifier | literal}...
    {ERASE [{SCREEN | [END OF] LINE}] | [WITH] NO [ADVANCING]}
```

```
DISPLAY {identifier | literal}...
    {ERASE [{SCREEN | [END OF] LINE}] | [WITH] NO [ADVANCING]}
    [AT integer-3]
```

```
DISPLAY {identifier | literal}...
    {ERASE [{SCREEN | [END OF] LINE}] | [WITH] NO [ADVANCING]}
    [ [AT] LINE [NUMBER] integer-4 COLUMN [NUMBER] integer-5 ]
```

```
*screenrecord as defined by MicroSoft(TM) Cobol 2.xx
```

```
integer-1, integer-4 : 1 - 25  if >25 <CR>
integer-2, integer-5 : 1 - 80  while( >80 ) <CR> -80...
integer-3            : 2580 or 025080

fatscreen           : 48 lines by 132 column
```

## 1.20 entry

```
ENTRY
*****
```

```
ENTRY literal-string USING identifier(s).
```

eg.

Calling program (proga.cbl)

```
working-storage section.
```

```
01 .
   03 param-1                pic x(20) value "param one".
   03 param-2                pic x(20) value "param two".
   03 param-3                pic x(20) value "param three".
```

```
procedure division.
```

```
   call "progb"
   call "entry1" using param-1
   call "entry2" using param-1 param-2
   call "entry3" using param-1 param-2 param-3
   stop "press a key"
   stop run.
```

called program with entry points (progb.cbl)

```
linkage section.
```

```
01 param-1                pic x(20) value "param one".
01 param-2                pic x(20) value "param two".
01 param-3                pic x(20) value "param three".
```

```
procedure division.
```

```
   display "Prog B entered at start"
   exit program.
```

```
entry "entry1" using param-1
   display "Entry1 in progb"
   exit program.
```

```
entry "entry2" using param-1 param-2
   display "Entry2 in progb"
   exit program.
```

```
entry "entry3" using param-1 param-2 param-3
   display "Entry3 in progb"
   exit program.
```

SCM:)

## 1.21 implemented?

---

Implemented?

\*\*\*\*\*

IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.

The program-id is required to be the same as the filename bar the .COB file extention. This allows for consistent CALLs to subprogram and nested programs ie via their program-ids.

ENVIRONMENT DIVISION.

The options supported in SPECIAL-NAMES are SWITCH, CLASS, CURRENCY and DECIMAL-POINT. ALPHABET is supported in syntax only. Maybe next time. I-O-CONTROL SECTION. recodnised but not implemented!  
To read a record file created in a text editor, specify ORGANIZATION IS LINE SEQUENTIAL. If you are unfortunate enough to have created your record file with a PC editor, dont forget to convert the file to amiga (CrossDOS etc), or add an extra character to the record definition, to account for the PC's 'LF ←  
' .

DATA DIVISION.

There is no support for the REPORT SECTION or communications. BLOCK and RECORD clauses recodnised but not implemented!  
USAGE IS default always ie no support yet for PACKED / BINARY etc..  
SYNCHRONISED is recodnised but not implemented!  
SCREEN SECTION is as defined by Microsoft 2.XX , plus support for basic BUTTON GADGETS.

PROCEDURE DIVISION..

All keywords above have been implemented!

## 1.22 history

History

\*\*\*\*\*

- 1.00 July 97 - first release CU Amiga Magazine
- 1.0a August 97 - Aminet / CU Amiga Magazine (CDROM 15) RIP!  
resort to pre 'reference moddification' version, since last minute addition of reference modification option introduced strange/terminal errors ...sorry!
- 1.0b November 97 - Aminet 21  
font sensitive main program  
NRCOBOL compiled under GNU C 270 ,just!  
still trying with runcob (NorthC1.3 + A68k)

support only for A1200 or better  
 ...unless i get feedback from pre A1200 users :)  
 MOVE ALL ...  
 HIGH-VALUE(S) LOW-VALUE(S) sign sensitive  
 blank when zero should now work  
 fixed oversight with full stop now allowed in zone/margine ←  
     A

relaxed LEVEL 02-49 positioning, now allowed in zone/ ←  
     margine A  
 Amiga Format Magazine's CDROM (106 ;)

1.0c February 98 - NRCOBOL + RUNCOB compiled under DICE 3.15 ,all as 68000  
 fixed PERFORM inline/times options  
 fixed justification  
 fixed SIZE ERROR handling  
 extended post statement error clause (only just come ←  
     across dis)  
 eg  
     ON SIZE ERROR  
         imperative...  
  
     NOT ON SIZE ERROR  
         imperative...  
     END-???

now available for:

AT EOP  
 AT END  
 INVALID KEY  
 ON SIZE ERROR  
 ON EXCEPTION  
 ON OVERFLOW

fixed ASSIGN TO " "  
 now mutually exclusive to VALUE OF FILE-ID IS " "  
 see.. Thank You

extension of ACCEPT funtion to include ansi89 like :) ←  
     functions  
 for millennium date  
 INTEGER-OF-DATE      YYYYMMDD  
 INTEGER-OF-DAY      YYYYDDD

added support for AMIGA-BUTTON gadget

see.. ACCEPT

added tooltypes for:  
 TEXTVIEWER  
 SOURCEDIR  
 RUNCOBDIR

improved GUI to indicate option available  
 see.. Thank You

WB1.3 compatable compilation back by demand

---

- 1.0d March 98 - fixed terminale oversight with cli interface sorry!(  
added TODAYS-DATE to ACCEPT function.
- see.. Thank You  
Amiga Format Magazine's CDROM (110, AFCD26 thanks guys!;)
- 1.0e Sept 98 - reference modification now implemented ...Halleluiah!!  
'P' option for PICTURE declaration done  
multiple PICTURE declaration, ie s9(5)v9(3)  
new tooltype for WINDOW=PUBLIC or WINDOW=CUSTOM via menu  
level 78's ,ie pseudo constants
- see.. Thank You
- better implementation of edited\_number and edited\_string  
basic menu options  
GO TO ....DEPENDING legal implementation  
INSPECTING ...converting clause fixed  
'cbl' now allowed as sourcefile extension  
wildcard for bulk compilation from cli done  
compilation speed improvements  
ROUNDED option fixed  
figurative constants now allowed with conditions  
precedence of section and paragraph names in PERFORM fixed  
empty PERFORMS allowed :) PERFORM ...[1000000] TIMES  
+ fine tuning of assembler maths routines
- Amiga Format Magazine's CDROM (118, AFCD34)  
Amiga DEVROM GOLD : CD807, [WWW.epicmarketing.ltd.net/af](http://WWW.epicmarketing.ltd.net/af) ←  
?-(  
Aminet 28
- 1.0f March 99 - Qualified identifiers, ie 'ident IN record OF record' is ←  
now
- implemented. This means the really useful feature ←  
CORRESPONDING  
for MOVE, ADD and SUBTRACT now works. Qualified ←  
identifiers  
for 'nested files' is pending.
- Improved memory management now means NRCOBOL release  
memory between compilation. All the better for wildcards ←  
:)
- Report file '.NRCOBOL.report' generated when the wildcard ←  
option  
is used. Use -r flag to suppress file.
- The following have been rewritten to meet Ansi 85:  
ADD, COMPUTE, DISPLAY, DIVIDE, EVALUATE, GO, INITIALIZE,  
INSPECT (almost !), MOVE, MULTIPLY, PERFORM, SEARCH, SET, ←  
STRING,  
SUBTRACT and UNSTRING.
- Improvements have been made to complex and abbreviated ←  
conditions.
-

Level 78 style constants have been expanded to simple ←  
integer  
arithmetics, the operators are + - / \* ,no precedence, no ←  
brackets.  
integers greater than 4294967295,  $2^{32} - 1$  , are truncated ←  
, just  
like microFocus(tm).

A limited subset of compiler directives have been ←  
implemented.  
...see Basics

please note stack requirements are now a little higher ←  
this is  
largely to deal with the worst case of a rather neat  $O(\leftarrow$   
 $\log n)$ ,  
but memory hungry recursive division routine.

for any really silly coders out there, the complex form of ←  
the  
continuation has been implemented. This allows even ←  
keywords to be  
interrupted, provided the next line starts with an hyphen.

NRCOBOL will now compile source code prepared on a PC ←  
without the  
need for conversion via crossdos etc.

upgraded from OS 2.4 to OS 3.0, just so i could get exec's ←  
CreatePool()  
to compile.

On the GUI front, NRCOBOL will now remember where it was, ←  
when last  
closed.

There is also a menu flag to remember the current dir, ←  
this info is  
recorded in a small file 'NRCOBOL.pref' in the S directory ←  
, when  
the program is closed.

You can also switch off zone check. I am told this makes ←  
the language  
more friendly, personally i think it allows sloppy habits. ←  
SCM X)  
see.. Thank You

The overflow error condition is now optioned.

Finally, for those in the know the ENTRY satatement has ←  
been implemented.  
This microFocus(tm) feature allows library like calls to ←  
resident  
programs. ....see ENTRY

1.0g June 99 - Amiga Format Magazine's CDROM (124, AFCD40)  
 - For Evaluation see Runtime Trace environment,  
 changes to the position-clause of both ACCEPT and ←  
 DISPLAY  
 see.. Thank You

88 level allowed in File Section.  
 Fix for REWRITE of sequential organized files.  
 Improvements to USE(s) in the DECLARATIVES SECTION.  
 \*> comment marker now allowed.

Improvements made to all keywords related to SEQUENTIAL ←  
 organised files.  
 FD's LINAGE clause and LINAGE-COUNTER implemented.

Font sensitive runtime screen added via menu option, user ←  
 required to  
 'clean' screen/line after use of ACCEPT. ←

Large screen format 132 x 48 now supported.

Substantial improvements to SEQUENTIAL, RELATIVE and ←  
 INDEXED file formats  
 Rewrites to file related syntax, variable size records now ←  
 supported.

File Status codes now meets ANSI 85 specification.

Fixed a bug that cropped up when REDEFINE, OCCURS and ←  
 FILLERS were used in  
 combination. MicroFocus(tm)'s CURRENT-DATE now supported.  
 see.. Thank You

## 1.23 todo

Todo  
 \*\*\*\*

- Own string input routine, rather than system functions.
- Totally ANSI 85 see Implemented?
- Intrinsic functions ANSI 89
- support for SQL trainer module, possible interface to Hughe's MSQL  
 can anyone say how SQL reports to cobol after EXEC SQL commands  
 COBOL <> SQL overview welcomed.
- OBJECT????? Hmmmm :-)
- suggestions welcomed Feedback
- expand ACCEPT functionality (Amiga specific)
- expand guide's introduction to cobol syntax
- add menu flag to 'WRITE' PC style records, ie add extra LF char  
 thanks David C. although u might try crossdos ;)

- Add GOTO line button to trace environment.

## 1.24 bugs

Bugs

\*\*\*\*

- requires A1200 or better. :)  
DICE m68020 compilation.

## 1.25 final

STOP PRESS

\*\*\*\*\*

Since nrcobolld i've compleated the collage course which allowed me access to the internet, and as im quite sure they are not going to allow me a freebee access (them's the rules), i have had to resort to Hotmail. This service curtesy of [www.juno.com/](http://www.juno.com/) should allow free email via my local cyber cafe.

Anyway for now keep using the 'HA.ROT@bigfoot.com' address which has been configured to re-route emails to my old collage email address.

Please note, with the improvements to the program, the status of NRCOBOL has changed from Postcard ware to Magazine ware 8^)

see ... Distribution

## 1.26 feedback

Feedback

\*\*\*\*\*

- 'things aint wot they ougt a'
- unexpected output or syntax ... well you never know
- congratulations
- bribes not to continue
- buy outs / takeovers
- Donations of money / hardware..
- or even a post card from what ever part of the planet you and your Amiga reside. Amiga dead? Long live Amiga.
- OBJECT COBOL example code???
- Spare copy of latest ANSI COBOL standard??  
this comes via limited access to Ansi74 plus the stuff at the back

- of most books on COBOL + pdf files available via <http://www1.shore.net/~daschric/j4.htm> ←
- Offers of WORK :-(
  - have you any cobol source you're proud of, and would like included with the next release?

email : HA.ROT@bigfoot.com (re-router/lifetime email curtesy of  
<http://WWW.bigfoot.com/>)

snail mail

Mr C Harriott  
14a Splott Road  
Splott  
Cardiff  
Cf2 2BZ  
UK

Salutations

## 1.27 contacts

Contacts  
\*\*\*\*\*

For further information on the COBOL scene you might try the FAQ created and maintained by

[jfid@mfltd.co.uk](mailto:jfid@mfltd.co.uk) (James Fidell)  
<http://www.mfltd.co.uk/~jfid/>  
<http://www.mfltd.co.uk/FAQ/cobol-faq.html>  
<http://www.cobol.com/>  
<http://www.netcom.com/~wmklein/cobolfaq.htm>  
<http://www1.shore.net/~daschric/j4.htm>  
<http://www.dkuug.dk/JTC1/SC22/WG4/>  
<http://207.82.250.251/cgi-bin/linkrd?>  
[http://www.infogoal.com/cdb/cdbref.htm"](http://www.infogoal.com/cdb/cdbref.htm)  
News:comp.lang.cobol

## 1.28 greetings

Hellos  
\*\*\*\*\*

A big 10:4 to the staff at ITEC (cardiff) especially Sheila & Maria.

---

Also thanks to Mike Evans at Cardiff Uni for the email account, however long it lasts.

Hello to Nick (Newport) 'i will get round to returning that HD cradle'

Gday to Mark Bowman, put a shrimp on the barby for me. happy new year :\*)

ADVERTISEMENT FOLLOWS 8-^

support your indepent local retailers  
greetings to the staff at:

Golden Image (UK) Ltd  
Unit 65,  
Hallmark Trading Estate,  
Forth Way,  
Wembley,  
Middx HA9 0LB

Sales No: 0181 900 9291  
<http://www.Goldenimage.co.uk>

Still doing budget accelerators...

## 1.29 distribution

Distribution

\*\*\*\*\*

Distribution is granted to anyone via floppy and internet/ BBS provided documentation remains as is, only a nominal fee is charged for copying and no attempt is made to reverse engineer the program.

Distribution is also granted to anyone compiling a CDROM provided the above conditions are met AND i am sent a copy of the CDROM. Please??

You may also like to consider this product, Magazine Ware.

This means if you find this program useful you may send me an issue of a recent magazine you consider 'interesting', 'very interesting' or even 'Wow, is that for real?' :)

I would be particularly interested in magazines on the global phenomena that is 'StarWars' or any really interesting scientific(tion) journals.

All this for the price of a stamp? Go on, but i bet u wont!

If you cant afford a stamp then just email some code you've developed using NRCOBOL.

Ego calling... Feed Me

---

## 1.30 credits

Credits

\*\*\*\*\*

Would you believe i wrote this with the public domain 'C' compiler NorthC 1.3 ...if you're out there S Hawtin thanks dude. Although i have to say it makes for lazy programing. Hopefully GNU C will induce discipline! Ouch!

Thanks expressed to Thore Böckelmann for the use of his disclaimer (quite frankly i couldn't have put it better myself) also thanks for gifting the Amiga community his EXCELENT CyberAVI and CyberQT. A real babe of a program. SHoWING?? Now how about some avi/mov files AF/CUCD/ANOther?

Thanks to Markus Hillenbrand Author for the excellent GUICreator, which was used to create (after much tweeking) the newface of NRCOBOL. Please note the difference in compilation speeds is due solely to the use of gadtools ;(

Its amazing the people we take for granted, like that bloke Tinic Urou who wrote that delicious piece of eye candy called 'UrouHack', if you havent installed it yet what are you waiting for.

Thanks also to those unknown warriors who gave their all to bring us the freedom to program in assembler.. the authors of A68K and BLINK without which..... RESPECT!

## 1.31 disclaimer

Disclaimer

\*\*\*\*\*

No warranty, either express or implied, is made with respect to the fitness or merchantability of NRCOBOL.

chArRiOTt (referred to as "the author"), reserves the right to not develop any future versions of NRCOBOL.

The author will try to make a good faith attempt at correcting any problems if any are discovered, but is in no way required, nor bound to correct them.

The author neither assumes nor accepts any responsibility for the use or

---

misuse of these programs. He will also not be held liable for damages or any compensation due to loss of profit or any other damages arising out of the use, or inability to use this program.

The author will not be liable for any damage arising from the failure of this program to perform as described, or any destruction of other programs or data residing on a system attempting to run the programs.

The user of this program uses it at his or her own risk.

## 1.32 1.5 Author

GUICreator1.5 Author

Address:

Markus Hillenbrand  
Hauptstra\_e 6  
36124 Eichenzell-Lvschenrod  
Germany

Phone: -49/6659/3176 (Sa-Su) and -49/631/99658 (Mo-Fr)  
( Germany )

E-Mail: m\_hillen@informatik.uni-kl.de  
( not during holidays )

Banking:  
Raiffeisenbank Eichenzell (BLZ 53060180)  
Account # 2103850

This program was developed on an A4000/040.

I'd be grateful for:

- presents
- SCSI hard drives
- SCSI tape drives
- lottery winnings

and of course

- bug reports
- suggestions for improvement
- comments

and most of all

- REGISTRATIONS

## 1.33 urouauthor

---

UrouHack Author  
\*\*\*\*\*

If you want to tell me that urouhack has destroyed your machine or simply want to have a little chat then write to:

5uro@informatik.uni-hamburg.de

My postal address:

Tinic Urou  
Gaertnerstrasse 15  
20253 Hamburg  
- GERMANY -

I am also reachable on IRC, usually from Monday to Friday between 10.00am and 09.00pm CET. Leave me an email if you want to talk...

## 1.34 sorry!

Sorry!  
\*\*\*\*\*

My apologies to anyone who tried and failed to make contact at my old email address. At around 18th september my account was suddenly and without warning terminated. Imagine my suprise to find i no longer exist, to find my account ↔  
fini,  
to find this parrot's dead. No longer on this mortal coil, no longer with us, gone to software heaven, frankly needing more than a magnetic medium to get in touch with our dearly departed data :( KO'ed at HQ by HO.

This ment not only the loss of pending email, but records on all contacts made to date. If that wasn't bad enough, i had just, that week, been published on ↔  
the  
CDROM of the CU Amiga magazine (CUCD15), which ment all those potential ↔  
contacts  
are now lost.

Anyway, due to an act of devine intervention, (new JAVA course) i am now back ↔  
on  
line. Existing from day to day, suddenly aware of my own mortality, unsure of ↔  
the  
integrity of the system, but gradually rekindling my trust... bare with me.  
Willing to forgive but never forget!

If you were one of those who tried and failed, ...do call again y'all :\*)

Feedback

---

## 1.35 thank-you!

Thanks!

\*\*\*\*\*

Special thanks to the following who have made contact, and are fondly ←  
remembered:

JAVE. ...Groetjes, pointing out fullstop zone error resulting in  
bad compilation for paragraph/section names less than 4 ←  
characters  
request for relaxation of level 02-49 zone 'B' done!  
...microFocus COBOL85 info? still treading water?)

Charles Elliott ...still beta testing? trace environment directives?

Claus Luethje ...offer of docs, nice to know my prog, from its humble ←  
origins  
has found such a grand home. Wow the stuff dreams are ←  
made of !))

Alan W Rateliff II ...alerting me to the ASSIGN TO "file-named"  
output formatting in the FILE SECTION?

Shawn D. Kelly ...for requesting the TOOLTYPES TEXTVIEWER, SOURCEDIR and ←  
RUNCODDIR  
and changes to the GUI.

Ron Copley ...Who actually uses the 'big-iron compilers' looking ←  
forward to your  
offer of docs.

Loren Wilton ...Detailed debug , cli crash

Fahiem Wagiet ...Rainbow person in the New Rainbow Land , viva

Shaun C. Murray ...for obvious encouragement with this project ;) ←  
requesting level 78's and public window, asking for  
relaxed zone check, ENTRY + compilation directives  
Thanks for the posting on comp.lang.cobol

Francois Landry ...yep!

---

Matti Niskanen ...only Amiga makes it possible,

Saul Bertuccio ...Thanks for the excellent CED Arexx macros  
bertuccio@reteitalia.net Feedback welcomed  
Happy new year! ..see /Extra/CED.support/

Frank Reibold ...Try the Perform empty-perform 1000000 times now!)

Davide Zipeto ...GoldEd anyone ..see /Extra/GoldEd.support/

powerstack ?? ...linux-stuff? phoe! Only Amiga makes it posible.  
what size screens are you using .try sep scr 4 curs

David C. ...Out there in city de Banks, Bham Alabama-usa, watch u  
think of me now? ps dont u mean WRITE blurb AFTER 2 lines ←  
:)  
Spotted bug when redefine, occurs and filler combined.  
requested MF's CURRENT-DATE.

Sigurd Decroos ...for requesting changes to DISPLAY position-clause.  
now VAX and ALPHA VMS systems compliant ;)  
Also requested Fat Screen option.

David M.Bebber ...Requesting further info on runtime error.

i am afraid the rest of you went down with the great crash :((  
do call again!

Feedback

---