

PayAdvice4.2

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PayAdvice4.2

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## **Chapter 1**

# PayAdvice4.2

#### 1.1 main

Introduction

Pay Advice Analyser V4.2 Why bother using this program?

Hard drive installation
Original idea... Robert Hart
Loading the program

Creating a new file

Design... Richard Smedley

The main screen

Andy Eskelson

Entering a pay slip

Moving around your pay slip file Programming... Richard Smedley Editing a pay slip

Saving your pay slip file

Customizing the program
Copyright (C) Richard Smedley 1994
Menu functions
All Rights Reserved

Additional notes

The traditional jokes
Freely distributable
Version history

Disclaimer

"Hey take it easy"

This program is shareware. If you like and/or use it then please register by sending FIVE (UK) POUNDS STERLING to this address:

Richard Smedley

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257 Stoneyford Road Sutton-In-Ashfield Notts. NG17 3GJ England

Everybody who registers will receive a copy of the complete program, with the enabled save functions.

Registered users of previous versions can obtain a free update by sending a blank disk plus suitable stamped addressed envelope to this address.

#### 1.2 Introduction

A friend of mine once explained to me about how much he hated having to keep several old cardboard boxes in the bottom of his wardrobe, each of which he was slowly-but-surely filling with the Pay Advice slips that he receives in his wage packet.

He asked me if I knew of any way to transfer all his wage details onto his trusty Amiga, thus allowing him to throw out his dusty collection of pay slips and yet retain a permanent record of all his earnings. Much to his disappointment, I explained to him that unless he wanted to try using a spreadsheet then there wasn't really any realistic solution.

Sadly this idea just didn't work out. My friend had been thinking more along the lines of a simple, easy-to-use database program on which he could enter all his wage details without any awkward setting up or fiddling about.

After spending many sleepless nights sitting in front of the computer, I triumphantly produced a solution...

## 1.3 Why bother using this program?

Actually, there are a number of reasons for keeping a record of your wage details on your computer. The most obvious, of course, is that you'll finally be able to throw out all your old pay slips and yet still retain a permanent record of their contents.

More importantly than this, though, it is advisable to keep a regular check on your wages and how much tax your paying, to make sure that the tax man (or, worse still, your employer) isn't fiddling you. Of course, when you want to check your tax, you could always start sifting through boxes upon boxes of paperwork while you try to locate the required pay slips, but it is far quicker, easier, and more convenient to simply use the computer to find those details for you.

Additionally, even if you're only slightly curious about just how large a slice of your hard earned cash ends up in the hands of the tax man, then this in itself is a good reason for keeping a computerised record of your wage details. It might surprise you to see just how all those "little" deductions start piling up into something far more serious as you get

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further into the year...

And, as an extra bonus, there is the added advantage that all your wage details will be securely locked away on the computer where prying eyes and inquisitive fingers can't get at them.

#### 1.4 Hard drive installation

To install this program on a hard drive, simply create a drawer entitled "PayAdvice" (without the quotes!) in your boot partition, and then use the mouse to drag the PayAdvice program icon into that drawer.

Next, load your s:Startup-Sequence (or s:User-startup if you're using Kickstart 2.0 or greater) into a text editor and add the line:

Assign PayAdvice: SYS:PayAdvice/

Finally, if you've saved any program and/or printer preferences from within the Pay Advice program then open the Shell window, insert your Pay Advice disk into drive DFO (the internal one) and type:

Copy DF0:s/PayAdvice#? to s:

And that's it - No additional files or libraries are required. But don't forget to copy your saved data files into the PayAdvice drawer!

## 1.5 Loading the program

To load the program from Workbench, simply double-click on the Pay Advice icon.

If you prefer using CLI, simply CD to the "PayAdvice:" directory (or make sure that the program is in your search path) and then type "PayAdvice" at the CLI prompt. Note, though, that this program isn't self-detaching.

Whichever way you load the program, the Pay Advice screen will appear after a brief pause.

#### 1.6 Creating a new file

After loading the program, the first thing you'll need to do is  $\ensuremath{\hookleftarrow}$  enter some

personal information about yourself. If you press the right mouse button you'll see a number of pull down menu's appear on the title bar. Move the mouse pointer up to the "Files" menu and select the "Info" option.

You'll see a window appear which is used for both entering and displaying information about the current file. You should see the following empty boxes:

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Name Clock Department Employers name & address

Just move the mouse pointer over the first box and then press the left mouse button. You'll see that the cursor has appeared, now type in the required information and press the return key.

Simply repeat this with the other boxes, entering the appropriate details in each one. Obviously, if you don't use a clocking-on system then you can just leave that box blank.

If you make any mistakes then just re-click in the appropriate box and change its contents.

After you've entered everything, press the "OK" button at the bottom of the window to return to the main screen.

Now, the only other thing left to do is change the category titles shown on the left-hand side of the main screen, so that they match the details of your wage packet. To do this, simply select "Edit titles" in the "Prefs" pull down menu...

Changing the titles

#### 1.7 The main screen

The main screen is split into three distinct sections: Down the  $\ \leftarrow$  left-hand

side of the screen, you'll see the current name of each category of your wage file, and towards the right, filling most of the screen, is the area where all your wage details will be displayed.

If required, you can easily change the names of each category by selecting "Edit titles" from the "Prefs" pull down menu at the top of the screen.

Changing the titles

These form the main controls of the program, and are fully explained in the following sections:

The NEW ENTRY button

The EDIT button

The arrow buttons

displays a summary of each wage packet on the screen. The "current" pay slip, that is to say the one on which all operations will be performed,

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will always be highlighted using bold text.

## 1.8 Entering a new pay slip

To enter a new pay slip, simply press the "New entry" button at  $\leftrightarrow$  the bottom

of the main screen.

A calendar will appear, asking you to enter the date for the new pay slip. Click on the appropriate on-screen buttons to change the date, and then press the "OK" button.

The edit window will now appear. You'll notice that the name of your first addition has appeared on the left-hand side.

A simplified calculator should now appear on the screen. When ever this appears it means that the program wants you to enter a number, in this case the value of that particular category. You can use the calculator with either the keyboard or the mouse, whichever you prefer.

Enter the value of your first addition, and then press return/enter. The number will now appear in the edit window.

One by one, this will be repeated for every addition and deduction to your wages until everything has been entered, when your net pay will be displayed. After a short pause you'll return to the main screen, where you'll see that a summary of the new pay slip has been highlighted.

Editing a pay slip

## 1.9 Moving around your pay slip file

slip file:

- 1) Pressing the single-arrow buttons at the bottom of the main screen will move you back-and-forth through your file one pay slip at a time, and the double-arrow buttons will move you an entire screen at a time.
- 2) If you prefer using the keyboard then the left/right cursor keys can be used to move you one pay slip at a time, just like pressing the single-arrow buttons, and the up/down cursor keys will move a screen at a time.
- 3) You can use the mouse to click directly on a pay slip on the screen, which will perform the equivalent of highlighting that pay slip and then pressing the "Edit" button.

Additionally, the "Move" pull down menu contains a number of options for moving around your pay slip file.

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The MOVE pull down menu

## 1.10 Editing a pay slip

Sooner or later, whether its because you've made a mistake or whatever, you're going to want to edit one of your pay slips.

To do this, simply highlight the required pay slip using the arrow buttons, and then press the "Edit" button (or the return key). Alternatively, if the required pay slip is displayed on the screen, then you can click directly on it (as detailed in the "Moving about your pay slip file" section).

The edit window will re-appear showing all the details for that particular pay slip.

To change the value of one of the categories, all you have to do is move the mouse pointer over the required category and click the left mouse button. The appropriate category will then be highlighted, and the calculator will appear for you to enter a new value.

You can change as many numbers as you wish, and then when you've finished press the "OK" button to keep the changes, or "Cancel" to leave everything as it was. Either way, you'll be returned to the main screen.

## 1.11 Saving your pay slip file

Important note: Only the registered version of this program is capable of saving Pay Advice files. Although it will appear to go through the motions of saving your file, it won't actually record anything on disk...

Obviously, one way or another, you're going to need to save your pay slip file onto disk. If you hold down the right mouse button, you'll notice a number of menu's appear on the title bar. Move up to the "Files" menu and select "Save as".

A file requester will appear for you to select the device, directory and file name to save your file under. Press the "Save" button when you've selected everything.

A window will now appear asking you to enter a password. Because all wage details are highly confidential, this program saves its files using a special encryption technique which makes it impossible to load a pay slip file without first entering the correct password.

You can enter anything that you want for the password, up to ten characters long, but remember that passwords ARE case sensitive and if you forget what your password is then you've lost your pay slip file.

As you type, you'll notice that a  $\star$  appears on screen for each character of the password – this is to prevent anybody from reading your password on the

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screen while you're typing it. If you're entering a new password then you'll be asked to type it a second time just to make sure that you didn't make any typing errors when you entered it.

Alternatively, simply pressing the return key without typing anything will save your file without a password.

Your file will (not!) now be saved to disk.

## 1.12 Customizing the program

If you hold down the right mouse button, you'll notice a menu  $\ \leftarrow$  entitled

"Prefs". By selecting one of the options available here, you can change the way that certain parts of the program work and set it up to your own personal liking.

The options available are:

Program

Printer

Edit titles

## 1.13 Program preferences

The preferences window will appear, containing three gadgets:

CALCULATOR Lets you turn the calculator on/off. If you turn it off, then the cursor will appear in the edit window for you to type numbers from the keyboard. This can be much faster and more convenient if you never intend to use the mouse for operating the calculator.

CALENDAR Turns the calendar on/off. If you turn it off, then you can choose whether you'd rather type dates using the DD/MM/YY or MM/DD/YY format.

DEFAULT Most users of this program will probably load the same pay slip file every time they use this program. If you press this button then a file requester will appear for you to choose a file to load automatically whenever you use the program. You'll still need to type the password in, but it'll save you from having to select "Load" and go through the file requester every time.

Finally, at the bottom of the window, you'll see the following buttons:

USE Temporarily keep the current settings.

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SAVE Save the current settings to disk.

CANCEL Leave everything as it was.

### 1.14 Printer preferences

Unless your printer requires a form feed to be sent after every printed page then you can safely ignore this section... Otherwise, read on...

The preferences window will appear containing the following gadgets, all of which must be correctly set IN ADDITION TO the standard Workbench printer preferences.

LINES/PAGE Click in the box and type the maximum number of lines that your printer can fit on a sheet of paper.

FORM FEED Some printers, mostly laser printers, need you to send a form feed command after every sheet of paper. If your printer needs a form feed command then turn this on, else leave it off.

RE-DIRECT If you want to re-direct printer output to a file for some OUTPUT reason, then press this button and use the file requester to enter a file name, and then all printer output will be re-directed to that file instead.

Again, at the bottom of the window, you'll see the following buttons:

USE Temporarily keep the current settings.

SAVE Save the current settings to disk.

CANCEL Leave everything as it was.

## 1.15 Changing the user-definable category titles

All wage packets are made up from various additions and deductions to your earnings, such as basic pay, overtime, and tax. But, despite this, it is highly unlikely that any two people's wage packets will consist of exactly the same combination of additions and deductions.

There are a total of thirty separate user-definable categories available in this program, which have been equally split into fifteen additions and fifteen deductions.

These user-definable categories are initially defined with the following titles:

ADDITIONS

Basic pay

Commission

Overtime

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Special pay (The other eleven categories are initially undefined)

DEDUCTIONS

National insurance
Pension
Tax
Union fees
Savings deduction
(The other ten categories are initially undefined)

The other four categories, namely "Period ending", "Total gross", "Total deductions" and "Net pay" are all automatically created and dealt with by the program, so there's no need to worry about them.

If, by some chance, these default titles actually fit the categories on your wage slip then you can ignore the rest of this section and start using the program straight away. It's more likely, though, that you'll be needing to change these titles...

Select "Edit titles" from the "Prefs" pull down menu. You'll see a large window appear in the centre of the screen, containing separate sections for additions and deductions. Each box in this window represents the title of an individual category of your wages. The order, from top to bottom, in which the titles appear in this window is the same as the order in which they will appear on the main screen.

To change a title, move the mouse pointer over the required box and then press the left mouse button. You'll see that the cursor has appeared in that box. Use the delete key to erase the current title, and then type in a new title of your own and press the return key.

If you make any mistakes, or if you change your mind, then you can re-click in any of the boxes and edit their contents.

After you've finished, press the "OK" button at the bottom of the window to keep the new titles, or hit the "Cancel" button to leave them as they were.

Either way, you'll return to the main screen, where the amended titles will be displayed in place of the previous ones.

You should realise, though, that whilst you can edit the titles and change them around after you've created your file, actually changing the titles won't have any affect on the contents of the categories themselves. So, for example, if you changed your titles to move your second addition into fourth place, and your fourth addition into second place, then only the titles themselves would change: The actual information entered in your file as the second addition would remain in that position even though the title itself had moved.

To actually move the information itself you need to use the "Exchange" function in the "Lines" pull down menu. Select this, and then click on the two categories that you want to exchange places and press the "OK" button. All the information entered in those two categories will then swap places with one another. Please remember, though, that the Exchange function won't attempt to move any of the category titles themselves, only the actual

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information contained within those categories, so the titles will remain as they were before the function was selected.

#### 1.16 Menu functions

The following pull down menu's are available from the main screen:

Program

Files

Move

Lines

Other

Prefs

### 1.17 Program menu

The following functions are available:

ABOUT Displays information about the program and its authors.

QUIT Quit the program. Requesters will inform you if you have any unsaved information in your file.

## 1.18 Files menu

The following functions are available:

LOAD Load a new file. Use the file requester to select the appropriate file, and then enter the required password.

SAVE Save the current file automatically using the last file name and password used, thus saving you from having to go through the file requester.

SAVE AS

Save the current file

SAVE ASCII Save the current file in ASCII format, so (for  $\hookleftarrow$  example)

you can load it into a text editor and re-arrange the layout before printing it. Just choose which categories to save, enter the start & finishing dates, and then use the file requester. Remember, though, that ASCII files aren't password protected and they can't be loaded back into this program. The output will automatically be

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arranged according to one of three possible formats - see the "Additional notes" section for more information.

DELETE Use the file requester to erase a file from disk. Remember that you can't undelete a file!

PRINTOUT Choose which categories you want to print, and then use the calendar to enter the start & finishing dates for the printout. Make sure that your printer is on line before selecting this. The output will automatically be arranged according to one of three possible formats - refer to the "Additional notes" section for more information.

INFO Displays information about the current file. You can edit these details (if necessary) by clicking in the appropriate boxes.

Important note: Only the registered version of this program is capable of saving Pay Advice files. Although it will appear to go through the motions of saving your file, it won't actually record anything on disk...

#### 1.19 Move menu

The following functions are available:

TOP/FILE Moves up to the first pay slip of the current file.

BOTTOM/FILE Move down to the last pay slip of the current file.

GOTO % Type a number into the box, and then you'll be moved to that percentage of the way down the file.

#### 1.20 Lines menu

The following functions are available:

INSERT Inserts a blank pay slip at the current position, moving the current pay slip and everything below it along by one position, and then brings up the edit window for you to enter a new pay slip at that position.

DELETE Erases the current pay slip, moving everything below it up by one place to fill the gap.

EXCHANGE This function is mainly intended for use with the "Edit titles" function in the "Prefs" menu. If you've used the "Edit titles" function to re-arrange your wage categories into a different order within the program then you'll find that only the titles themselves have changed, and that the actual information entered in those categories has stayed in the same position as it was before. By selecting this function, you can move the actual wage details in your file

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from one place to another within the program to make them correspond to the modified titles: Simply click on the two categories that you want to change places and then press the "OK" button. Note, though, that you can't exchange additions with deductions, or vice versa.

#### 1.21 Other menu

The following functions are available:

SEARCH Press the appropriate button to choose which category you

want to search, and then enter the required value. The program will then search from the current pay slip onwards and, if it finds an entry for your value, will give you the option of either stopping there or continuing the search.

TOTALS Enter the start & finishing dates, and then the program

will calculate and display the totals from between those dates. If you click on the "Print" button, then a copy of

the totals window will be sent to the printer.

DATE ORDER Re-arrange the current file into date order. Be warned,

though, if you are working with a large file then this

might take a couple of minutes.

#### 1.22 Additional notes

This program makes the assumption that time started on 1st January 1950, and that it runs out on 31st December 2049. Somehow I can't see this causing any problems because hardly anybody will want to catalogue any pay slips that they might have lying around from before 1950, and, frankly, by the year 2049 we'll all have upgraded to something a little more powerful than the Amiga...

This program is unable to handle numbers any larger than nine characters in length. To be honest, I don't think that anybody who has numbers longer than nine characters on their pay slip will be actively involved in using PD & shareware programs anyway, so I can't imagine this being a problem!

If you accidentally tell the program that you want to enter a new pay slip, when in actual fact you didn't want to, then there is a way of cancelling the input sequence. If you've got the calculator turned on (which it will be by default) then all you have to do is hit the close gadget. If you've turned the calculator off, then when prompted to enter a number you should type "C" (without the quotes!) and press the return key. Either way, the operation will be cancelled.

A word about memory: This program requires a large chunk of unfragmented memory in order to work correctly. It'll work OK on machines with 1 meg or more, so if you have less than this then I'd recommend booting your computer and running this program without loading anything else in between. This should cure most problems.

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File names... It is officially recommended that you start a new pay slip file for each financial year, and that you save your files with names such as "FredBloggs1994" for your 1994 records while working for Fred Bloggs (or whatever). If you do insist on keeping inordinately long files, then this program will handle files up to 250 pay slips long (if you get paid weekly, then that's about FIVE YEARS worth!)

File compatibility: Sadly, it is no longer possible to keep this program compatible with files created or saved using V1.27 of this program, but it still works fine with files from V2.00 onwards. If you still need to use files created on V1.27 of this program, then you'll need to convert them into V2.00/V3.00 format. To do this, you'll need to have either the PD or registered version of Pay Advice Analyser V3.00: Load your V1.27 file into this and it'll automatically convert it into V2.00/V3.00 format, and then all you have to do is save it again. You'll then be able to load it into this program without any problems.

The program will automatically attempt to arrange printouts and ASCII files according to one of the following three formats in this order:

- 1) If you select a total of ten categories or less (including categories such as "Net pay") then your file will be printed with each pay slip squeezed onto a single line - handy if you want to fit a full year onto a single A4 sheet.
- 2) Providing you don't select more than nine additions and more than nine deductions (if it's selected then the total addition/deduction categories will be counted as one of the nine) then the program will attempt to fit each pay slip onto two printed lines, putting additions on the first line and deductions on the second, with a blank line to separate each pay slip.
- 3) Failing the above, it will revert to the V4.0 method of printing the pay slips in the same vertical format as they appear on the screen, fitting six pay slips across the width of each page.

If the program uses option 1 or 2 then numbers longer than seven characters will be printed with the left-most digits removed (so "123456.78" would be printed as "<3456.78")

Remember that you can add new categories to the program at any time by using the "Edit titles" function in the "Prefs" menu, so if a new addition or deduction appears on your pay slip part way through the financial year then all you have to do is use this to add the extra categories! Also, when you edit pay slips, you'll find that you can click in unused categories and put numbers in them, so if you get an extra addition/deduction but don't want to create a category for it then you can still include it in your file...

## 1.23 The traditional jokes

Yes, that's right, it's time for more of my favourite jokes...

- Why did the vicar walk on his hands? Because it was Palm Sunday!
- 2) How many computer programmers does it take to change a light bulb? None, because it's a hardware problem!

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- 3) Why don't cats shave? Because 9 out of 10 owners said their cats prefer whiskers!
- 4) What has one wheel and flies? A wheelbarrow full of horse manure!
- 5) How do you stop a rooster from crowing on Monday morning? Eat it for Sunday dinner!

Ha ha ha ha... Ahem...

Er, perhaps that's enough jokes for now...

## 1.24 Version history

V1.27 Released 14th January 1993

The first public release of this program. After much consultation with Andy Eskelson, the program has a half-decent user interface, and, more importantly, it actually works...

- V2.00 Released 19th July 1993
  - \* A complete re-write of the user interface.
  - \* Re-organised the pull down menu's into a sensible order.
  - \* Added keyboard short-cuts for commonly used menu items.
  - \* Completely re-wrote the LOAD and SAVE routines to incorporate complete file encryption, instead of just partial encryption as used in previous versions.
  - \* Added a calendar, pre-set from the system clock, for entering dates into the program.
  - \* Incorporated a simple calculator for entering numbers.
  - \* Improved number handling Decimal places are automatically checked, and all numbers are now right-justified.
  - \* Wrote a "SAVE AS ASCII" function, enabling you to load your Pay Advice files into a word processor or text editor to re-arrange the layout before printing them.
  - \* Modified the screen display, so now the program uses the entire screen to display your file instead of just the bottom few lines.
  - \* Added a "DELETE FILE" function to the pull down menu's.
  - \* Modified the colour palette: You can actually read the file requesters now!

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- \* The program will now warn you if you try to quit when there's unsaved information in the current file.
- \* Added some new printer preferences routines and completely re-wrote the printout function.
- \* Wrote a way, through the calculator, to cancel the input sequence for entering a new pay slip (press "C" twice)
- \* Improved the screen update and button-handling routines.
- \* Plus numerous bug removals (too many to list!) and more...

#### V2.10 Released 5th August 1993 (EXCLUSIVE TO REGISTERED USERS)

- \* It turned out that my new printout routines had a slight bug in them which affected the last page of a printout. Corrected.
- \* Added an ICONIFY routine.
- \* Plus a few minor enhancements and modifications here and there...

#### V3.00 Released 11th October 1993

- \* Er, don't know how to say this, but the "DELETE FILE" function never actually worked! Corrected this, plus a number of other bugs.
- \* Looks like there was a problem with the "SAVE AS ASCII" routines used in V2.10 the columns of numbers didn't line up properly! Corrected this as well.
- \* Incorporated some program preferences routines...
- $\star$  User now has the option of whether or not to use the calculator.
- \* The calendar can now be disabled, and if so, the user can choose whether to type dates using the DD/MM/YY or MM/DD/YY format.
- \* Added an option to automatically load a Pay Advice file by default.
- \* Drastically improved the screen update speed.
- \* Completely re-wrote the "ARRANGE INTO DATE ORDER" function, so now it'll re-arrange any size file in a couple of minutes or so, instead of taking up to ten times longer than this! Also, this routine will now automatically remove any blank lines from the current file.
- \* Added some error handling routines Now, if something goes wrong, the program will tell you what happened instead of just quitting with a meaningless error code.
- \* Wrote some nice single-button requesters, so you don't get any more daft requesters appearing with two "Cancel" buttons beside

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one another.

\* When saving files, when asked to enter a password you can now press return without typing anything to keep the last password that you entered.

- \* If you've customized the file layout, the program will no longer ask you to enter a number for any category which doesn't have a name (you can still put numbers in these categories by editing the pay slip in the usual manner)
- \* File loading and saving is now directed towards the AmigaDos path PayAdvice: instead of the program guessing (often wrongly!) what the current device and directory are likely to be.
- \* A minor cosmetic change: Designed a nice, 2.0-style icon to replace the old Pay Advice program icon.
- \* Plus more...

#### V4.00 Released 24th December 1993

- \* A complete re-design of the GUI... The program now conforms far more closely to the WB2-standard for user interfaces...
- \* The program now supports ten user-definable categories instead of just six.
- \* Converted the Pay Advice doc file into AmigaGuide format.
- \* Incorporated a standard WB2 AmigaDos version string into the program.
- \* Changed the main Pay Advice screen into a backdrop window, so now you can't accidentally lose requesters and such behind the main screen...
- \* Modified the error handling routines Now, if something goes wrong, the program will give you the option of attempting to save the current file before quitting.
- \* To keep memory requirements down to a minimum, the maximum number of pay slips allowed in each file has been lowered from five hundred to two hundred and fifty (the extra categories mean that you need more memory to store each individual pay slip than in earlier versions)
- \* Modified the keyboard controls for moving through a pay slip file: The left/right cursor keys now move you one line at a time, and the up/down keys move you a screen at a time.
- \* Due to technical reasons, this program is no longer compatible with files created/saved using V1.27 of this program but it still works fine with files saved from V2.00 onwards.
- \* Completely re-wrote the "SAVE AS ASCII" function, and removed the "With grid" and "Without grid" options. You can now choose which

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- categories you want to save, and can also select the start and finishing dates for the save...
- \* Unless your printer requires a form feed after every printed page, then you can now completely ignore the section about setting up the programs internal printer preferences.
- \* The program now displays the current file name on the title bar.
- \* Added a "Printout" option to the "DISPLAY TOTALS" function.
- \* Renamed the "SAVE" function to "SAVE AS", and added a new "SAVE" menu function which lets you save the current file automatically using the last file name and password used.
- \* When editing a pay slip with the calculator turned on, the program will no longer remove the value from any category that you select in the edit window Instead the number will now stay where it is and the calculator will appear with a blank display.
- \* Removed the "Do you wish to modify the file format" requester from the "Create a new file" routine, and replaced it with an "EDIT TITLES" function in the "Prefs" menu. You can now change the titles any time you want, and not just exclusively when you're creating a new file...
- \* Added an "EXCHANGE" function to the "Lines" menu, which lets you swap information between categories, mainly for use with the "Edit titles" function.
- \* When creating a file, or modifying the user-definable category titles, the program will no longer automatically erase the current contents of a box when you click in it to edit its contents.
- \* Added a "Cancel" button to the "SEARCH FILE" function.
- \* You can now cancel the input sequence for entering a new pay slip even if you're not using the calculator: Type "C" (without the quotes!) and press return when prompted to enter a number.
- \* It appears that the program would let you enter daft numbers like "12.34.56" and actually accept them! Corrected this.
- \* Centred all the "Details for period ending..." titles in the edit and totals windows.
- \* Modified the "INSERT LINE" function so that it'll automatically bring up the edit window for you to enter a new pay slip.
- \* Drastically reduced the delay by which the edit window remains on screen after entering a new pay slip.
- \* The "SEARCH FILE" function no longer stops at the first entry that it finds A requester will now appear telling you which pay slip contains the required value and asking whether or not

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- you want to continue the search.
- $\star$  Modified the "ICONIFY" routine to include a password option.
- \* The "PRINTOUT" routines will now let you specify exactly which categories you want to print, and now includes an option to print the totals for the selected categories...
- \* When you click on an entry to modify it when editing a pay slip, simply pressing enter without typing a new number will no longer clear the current value of that category.
- \* All main buttons in the program will now respond to keyboard short-cuts, instead of just those on requesters...
- \* The Pay Advice preference files are now loaded and saved to AmigaDos path "s:" instead of "SYS:s"
- \* Plus other minor enhancements...

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- \* Incorporated further refinements and improvements to produce a more consistent user interface.
- \* The program now supports thirty user-definable wage categories, equally divided into fifteen additions and fifteen deductions.
- \* Pay Advice now runs on an interlaced screen (this was the only way to make enough room to display the extra categories!)
- \* The "PRINTOUT" and "SAVE AS ASCII" routines now automatically attempt to arrange output according to one of three possible formats (see the "Additional notes" section for more details!)
- \* Removed all the duff-looking "Please wait..." windows, and made it so that the program instead uses a proper 2.0 busy pointer to indicate when it's busy.
- \* Got rid of the roman numerals from the Pay Advice title...
- \* Passwords are no longer displayed on the screen The program now uses the traditional method of displaying \*'s for every character that is typed. This means that if you're entering a new password then you'll be asked to enter it a second time to make sure you didn't make any mistakes while typing it!
- \* The current file name is now displayed at the top of the main screen, instead of on the title bar.
- \* Improved the colour palette, so now you don't have to squint to read the old grey-on-grey pull down menu's any more!
- \* Removed the "Do you wish to create/load a file" requester which always used to appear when the program was loaded, so now when you load Pay Advice it'll take you directly to the main screen.

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- \* The details that you would normally enter when creating a new file (your name, department, and so forth) can now be entered or changed using the "INFO" function in the "Files" menu.
- \* When saving files, if you just press the return key (without typing anything) when asked for the password then your file will now be saved without a password. Use this wisely...
- \* Re-designed the calculator and put it in a normal window with a drag bar and a close gadget, enabling you to move it anywhere you want on screen. Pressing the close gadget now cancels the input sequence.
- $\star$  All windows (except the calculator!) are now opened as backdrop windows...
- \* Removed the "ICONIFY" function I honestly don't think anybody ever used it!
- \* The "Re-direct output" option now re-directs printouts from the totals window as well as the main printout function! Also, it now appends the output to the end of the existing file instead of overwriting it!
- \* Menu items now "ghost" themselves to indicate when they can and can't be used. Also, the pull down menu's will only appear on the main screen itself now!
- \* The "DISPLAY TOTALS" function now correctly ignores any unused categories.
- \* Added a "Cancel" button to the category selection window in the "SAVE AS ASCII" and "PRINTOUT" routines. Also, unused categories are now switched off by default.
- $\star$  If you "SAVE AS ASCII" to an existing file then you'll now be asked whether to append or overwrite it.
- \* Added a "NEW ENTRY" button to the main screen for entering new pay slips.
- \* Removed the "Gross pay" and "Deductions" titles from the edit window they looked too much like category names and weren't really needed anyway!
- \* If you've turned the calendar off then you're no longer forced to uses slashes to seperate the numbers, any non-numeric character will do.
- \* The program no longer crashes if you try to save your file on a write-protected disk!

#### 1.25 Disclaimer

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