MCP Endeavor - Help

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MCP Endeavor is a learning management system designed to assist those preparing for certification testing.

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Printing tests

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HOW TO ORDER

Ordering (registering) MCP Endeavor is easy, fast and inexpensive!   Several payment options exist.   A registered copy can be delivered in just days.   (Get email delivery the same day!)

Overview

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[Printing Order Form](Printing_Order_Form)

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT

VFX Technologies, Inc. is active on several online services.   We are committed to providing high quality software with unsurpassed customer service.   Several communication channels have been provided.

Technical Support: CompuServe

Technical Support: America OnLine

Technical Support: Internet
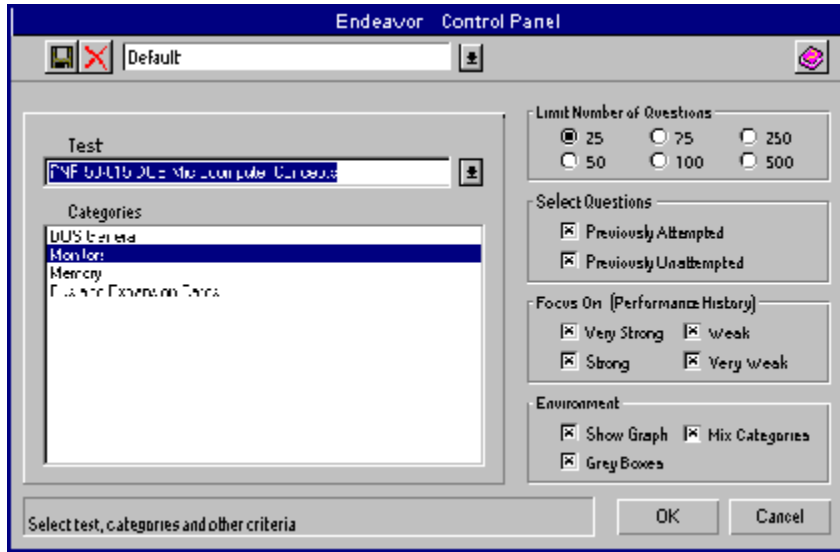
Technical Support: US Mail

Technical Support: Phone

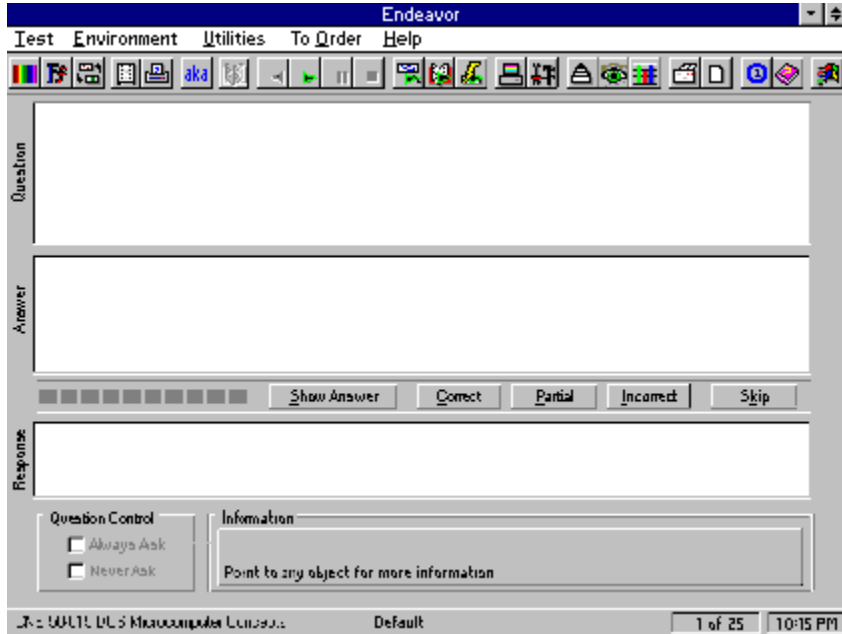Technical Support: Fax

VISUAL HELP - Control Panel Map

Point and click any screen object to jump to detailed help.   Use the Back button to return to this screen.

VISUAL HELP - Test Screen Map

Point and click any screen object for detailed help.   Use the Back button to return to this screen.

GENERAL FEATURES - Configuration

The configuration file, <u>ENDEAVOR.INI</u>, contains the definition for the following attributes: <u>DataPath</u>, font, font size and font colors.   While separate colors can be used for the question, answer and response boxes; only one font can be used.   This can be any font currently installed in the Windows environment.   (Font size is limited.)

When MCP Endeavor is started, the application attempts to locate the configuration file.   If this file is not found in the default directory, a message box will appear.   The application cannot be started if this file is not located.   A standard <u>dialog box</u> will appear to assist you in searching all available drives and directories.   If this file cannot then be located manually, it must be recreated by either reinstalling MCP Endeavor or by using any ASCII editor to update the ENDEAVOR.INI file.   The format of the file is as follows:

"C:\iconedit\","MS Sans Serif",12,128,128,128

Use the color selection utility to reassign the font colors for the question, answer and response boxes after recreating this file.

The ENDEAVOR.INI file will originally be installed into the default directory (C:\iconedit\). The application can be relocated to a new directory at any time, however it will be necessary to update this file before the application can be restarted.   Refer to INIREAD.ME for more information.

See also <u>Font Selection</u>, <u>Color Selection</u>

GENERAL FEATURES - Detailed Test Review

After every test the option exists to review in detail each question, answer, response and evaluation recorded.   From an idle test screen, simply click the icon seen here and then scroll through the material as required.

Only the most recent test information is retained.

GENERAL FEATURES - Font Selection

All active fonts within Windows are available for selection.   Only the font itself and the font size will be used, all other attributes (i.e.: bold, italics, underline, etc.) will be ignored. Maximum font size is limited.

To minimize the use of scroll bars in the question and answer boxes use the smallest font comfortably read.
The process of selecting a font to be used in the question, answer and response boxes of the Testing Screen is similar to selecting fonts in many other Windows applications.

1. Click the icon (shown here) from the testing screen at any time or use the pull down menu.

2. A common dialog box will appear showing the current font and its attributes.

3. Select the new font.

4. Click OK to accept this change, or Cancel to abort.

GENERAL FEATURES - Selecting Colors

The purpose of assigning multicolored text to the testing screen is to make the text in each area distinct and more readily identifiable.   It is both optional and completely customizable.

Note: Selecting white or grey may make text invisible depending on selected background!

The process of selecting colors for use in the question, answer and response (QAR) boxes of the <u>Testing Screen</u> is similar to selecting the color attribute in many other Windows applications.

1.   From the Testing Screen click on the Color Selection icon (pictured here) or use the pull down menu.

A color selection <u>check box</u> menu will ask which object(s) the color selection will apply to. The color can be changed in one, two or all three QAR (Question, Answer & Response) boxes.

2.   Check the boxes to be changed or click the 'Use Default' button.

3.   Click OK to accept this choice or Cancel to abort.

If OK was clicked,   a common <u>dialog box</u> will appear showing the current color and its attributes.

4.   Select any color available.

5.   Click OK to accept this choice or Cancel to abort.

All predefined and custom colors defined within Windows will be available.   Attributes other than the color itself will be ignored.

GENERAL FEATURES - Selecting Printers

The process of selecting the printer (to print tests) is similar to selecting a printer in many other Windows applications.

1.   From the Testing Screen click on the Printer Selection icon (pictured here) or use pull down menu.

A common dialog box will appear showing the current printer and its attributes.   All printers installed into Windows will be available, however all printer options may or may not be controlled through this dialog box.   This function is primarily used to route printed information to the correct printer.   For more information about the printer selection dialog box, refer to Windows documentation.

2.   Select any printer available.

3.   Click OK to accept this choice or Cancel to abort.

See also General Features - Print test

GENERAL FEATURES - Switching Answer/Response

To provide additional control over the <u>Testing Screen</u> appearance, a toggle switch will rotate the Answer and Response boxes.   This rotation can take place at any time and as often as needed.

1.   From the testing screen, click the Switch Icon (shown here) or use pull down menu.

Since this action requires only a single click, this preference will not be saved in the Control Panel or the configuration settings.

SPECIAL TESTING METHODS - Keyword Test

From an idle <u>testing screen</u>, the current test and selected categories can be searched for any question containing a particular <u>keyword</u>.   To initiate this search,   select Keyword Test from the testing screen by using either the pull down menu or clicking on the icon (pictured here). From within the framework of the current <u>criteria</u>, any question or answer containing the user defined keyword will appear.   If keyword matches are not located, first attempt.   If that fails, try other related keywords.

1. Click on the icon or use the pull down menu to initiate search.

2. Enter full or partial keyword.

If no word is entered, no search is initiated.   Partial keywords are acceptable but may produce less accurate results.

3. Cycle through matching keyword questions, answering then as you would any other test. The results of the test will be recording in the Scoring History as with normal tests.

Including a space before and after the keyword will insure that only exact matches are retrieved.

SPECIAL TESTING METHODS - HyperLearning Mode

From an idle <u>testing screen</u>, the current test and selected categories can be cycled through without any user intervention.   Initiate this testing mode from the testing screen by using either the pull down menu or clicking on the icon (pictured here).   From within the framework of the current <u>criteria</u>, any question or answer containing the user defined keyword will appear.

1. Click on the icon or use the pull down menu to initiate search.

2. Accept the default time interval to be used between questions or override the default by entering a new interval.

3. HyperLearning mode will end automatically when the last question is reached or the user clicks the Stop icon.

SPECIAL TESTING METHODS - Page Range Test

From an idle <u>testing screen</u>, the current test and selected categories can be searched for any question containing a cross reference to particular range of pages from any referenced Study Guide.   This allows a user to test the retention of reading after any block of pages are read.

To initiate this search,   from the testing screen use either the pull down menu or click the icon (pictured here).   From within the framework of the current <u>criteria</u>, any question found with the matching reference will be asked.   (Note: It is normally desirable to define a very broad test criteria for the Page Range test in orderto locate as many questions as possible.)

1. Click on the icon or use the pull down menu to initiate.

2. Select book and define the range of pages.

An invalid range of pages will not be accepted.

3. Matching questions will be asked until either no more questions can be located or the Stop icon is clicked.

GENERAL FEATURES - Printing Tests

Printing a test will send all selected questions (selected using <u>criteria</u> from current Control Panel settings) to the selected Windows printer.   Printing can be routed to any printer available to Windows using the Select Printer function.

1.   Use the Control Panel to select all question criteria, including multile categories.

2.   From an idle test screen, click the Print Test icon (shown here) or use the pull down menu.

3.   The icon will return to its original position when printing is complete.

See also <u>Selecting Printers</u>

GENERAL FEATURES - New Riders Acronym Database

VFX Technologies, Inc. has partnered with New Riders Publishing to create a very robust test preparation environement.   With that in mind, New Riders has provided an extensive database of Acronyms which can be referenced at any time, during a test.

1. To initiate this reference,   from either an active or and idle testing screen use the pull down menu or click the icon (pictured here).

2.   If the acronym embedded in the question does not appear, or multiple acronyms are present use the manual search.

Users also have the option of testing themselves on these Acronymns, simply select "NRP Acronym Test" from the available test names in the Control Panel.

GENERAL FEATURES - Cross Reference

Popular New Riders (NRP) Study Guides can be referenced directly from within MCP Endeavor.   This feature can only be access during a test.   Page numbers containing related topics to the current question will appear in a small menu.   Not all questions/answers have direct references.   Study guides included may vary.   See either the Cross Reference screen and/or the READ.ME file for more information.

1. From the Testing Screen click on the icon (pictured here) or use the pull down menu Cross Reference choice.

2. Close the Cross Reference screen when finished.

Sample chapters are also usually included.   Contact us for the latest list of referenced Study Guides.

GENERAL FEATURES - Exiting MCP Endeavor

Exiting MCP is possible only from an idle testing screen.

1. From the Testing Screen click on the exit icon (pictured here) or use the pull down menu.

If the Exit icon is disabled, exiting is not possible.   Stop the test, when the icon is reinstated, click and exit.

THE BASICS - Overview

MCP Endeavor from VFX Technologies, Inc. is an interactive learning management system designed to provide users complete control over their individual learning process.   Proper use of controls can accommodate a wide range of activities.   A traditional course of action is to begin with broad based testing to locate areas of weakness and then concentrate on those areas until they are mastered.   Other activities can be quite diversified.   The many controls can be used creatively to construct review, exploration, research and testing sessions.

The standard features of MCP Endeavor include: thousands of questions and answers organized into tests and categories, the ability to flag questions to be asked always or never, tracking testing time and reporting testing results.   MCP Endeavor enhances these features with a performance overview, detailed test reviews, scoring history and a powerful feature called the Focus On (Performance History)which allows users to select questions based on a QuestionHistory.   MCP Endeavor also offers: the ability to facilitate research by providing context cross reference to many popular study guides, an acronym database and the ability to create tests based on a range of Study Guide pages or chapters.

THE BASICS - Quick Start

MCP Endeavor is easy and intuitive.

Upon execution, the first screen to appear will be the Control Panel.   (If installation of MCP Endeavor   Windows properties are improper, a message will appear regarding the missing ENDEAVOR.INI. file.   Refer to Configuration or the INIREAD.ME file for help.)

1.   From the Control Panel, select a test.

After selecting a test, all categories will be listed.

2.   Select any number of categories from one to all.

3.   Check off the number of questions to be asked.

4.   Select both previously attempted and previously unattempted questions.   (First time users do not select Only Previously Attempted Questions!)

5.   Select all check boxes in the Focus On (Performance History).

6.   Exit the Control Panel by clicking on "OK".

7.   When the Testing Screen appears, click the "Play" button which will start the test.

Refer to the Information Box for basic help or the Help System for detailed information.

 THE BASICS - Information Box

The Information Box is small display window in the lower right hand corner of the Testing Screen.   It provides a constant stream of information regarding current events or objects. This can be a quick and useful source of help, especially to new users.

There is also a similar Information Box built into the Control Panel.

CONTROL PANEL - Overview

The Control Panel is where the testing <u>criteria</u> is defined.   This includes defining such attributes as: number of questions, sort order, previously attempted/unattempted selector and configuration name.   It also includes the save, retrieve and delete configuration functions.

The Control Panel appears first whenever MCP Endeavor is started.   The initial settings will match those from the previous Save.   (NOTE: This is not the same as the last time the Control Panel was used.)

Once all the settings have been reviewed, clicking OK will activate the <u>Testing Screen</u>.

Anytime the testing screen is idle, the Control Panel is accessible, therefore, the Control Panel is not available when a test is running.

Note: Exiting the Control Panel without creating a logically valid configuration is not probable, however, it is possible.   For example, setting the <u>criteria</u> to recall 'Only Previously Asked' questions before ever attempting a selected test or category.   This is an invalid configuration.

CONTROL PANEL - Choosing a test

The Control Panel has a pull down menu listing all available tests.   Multiple tests cannot be selected concurrently.

1. Pull down the test name menu by clicking the down arrow icon.

2. If necessary, use the scroll bar to locate a test.

3. Click on the test name to be activated.

After a test is chosen, all the categories associated with that test will appear in a list box below.

At least one category must be select to create a valid configuration.

Changing tests will list new categories and erase previously selected categories.

Using Cancel to exit the Control Panel will cause all settings, including test and categories to revert back to previously selected choices.   Do not use cancel to exit the Control Panel when the program is first started, this may force default values to be activated.

See also Selecting Categories

CONTROL PANEL - Selecting categories

Whenever the Control Panel is displayed new categories and/or test can be selected.   If a new test is chosen, all the categories associated with that test will appear.   Previously selected categories will disappear.   If a new test is not chosen, previously selected categories will appear highlighted, these can be changed.

One or more categories must be select to create a valid configuration.

It is recommended that fewer categories are used with a broad criteria when starting a new test.   Conversely,   more categories should be selected as criteria narrows and more questions are filtered out.

An example of broad criteria would be selecting all performance areas (very strong, strong, weak and very weak) with both previously unattempted and previously attempted questions.

An example of narrow criteria would be selecting only previously attempted questions with a performance area of only "very weak".

CONTROL PANEL - Number of Questions

A limit must be defined for the number of questions to be asked.   This can only be done through the Control Panel.

The test will be terminated when the selected limit is reached.

Conditions may prevent the limit being reached before the selected number of questions has been asked.   This depends on a combination of a users performance and current testing criteria.

CONTROL PANEL - Sort Order

In addition to the many question selection criteria and filters, MCP Endeavor selects questions randomly.

CONTROL PANEL - Select Questions

Within the Control Panel, two check boxes are located in the Select Questions box, Previously Attempted and Previously Unattempted.

These options can be selected individually or together.   It is not possible to select neither (an invalid criteria).

This function, while not as critical as the <u>Focus On (Performance History)</u>, can quickly direct the user's attention to new material, previously reviewed material or a combination of the two.

Note: If during the first test the user selects only Previously Attempted questions, this will result in an immediate termination due to the fact that no questions will be found.   This condition can also occur after using the Tool 'Reset Question History'. Both are examples of invalid criteria.

CONTROL PANEL - Focus On (Performance History)

The Focus On (Performance History) box located on the Control Panel is the place to determine how questions will be filtered in and out of tests based on their Performance History.   **For example**, by checking only the Very Strong box, only questions that have been previously answered correctly 80% or more will be selected.   The check boxes can be used in any combination.   Utilize these boxes to create review tests for areas of strength **or** use these boxes to quickly locate areas of various levels of weakness.

CONTROL PANEL - OK

Two options are available to exit the Control Panel, OK and Cancel.

Selecting OK will set all global variables and attributes to current Control Panel settings.

OK will NOT make the current settings the default settings for future testing sessions.   That can only be   accomplished using Save.

See also Control Panel - Save

CONTROL PANEL - Save/Delete

Saving the current Control Panel settings will make them the default settings for all future sessions (until a new set is Saved).   To make any existing Control Panel name the default, simply retrieve it and save it, with or without altering the settings.

 When saving, up to 50 characters can be used to name the configuration.

Alphanumeric characters and embedded spaces are allowed.   Illegal characters are: [ ] | +
'   These characters will be replaced with spaces if used.

The assigned name will be displayed on the Testing Screen before and after all tests. (During the test the current questions category will be displayed.)

Make the name meaningful, it is there to provide a reminder of the current Control Panel settings.

For **example**, a good Control Panel configuration name would be:

50 Attempted Strong

This indicates the Control Panel settings are:

50 Questions   previously Attempted with a Strong Focus On (Performance History)

Delete simply removes the current configuration name from the database.

To delete any configuration name:

1. Retrieve configuration name to be deleted.

2. Click the red "X" (delete) icon.

3. Retrieve or create a new configuration, the deleted name will not appear on future lists.

See also Control Panel - Retrieve

CONTROL PANEL - Retrieve

To retrieve previously saved Control Panel settings, click on the down arrow box next to the current name.   This creates a full list of all previously saved names.   Double click on the name to retrieve.

Be sure to use OK when closing the Control Panel screen, or the settings will revert back to previous selections.

See also Control Panel - Save, Control Panel - Name

CONTROL PANEL - Cancel

To exit the Control Panel only two options are provided, OK and Cancel.

Exiting via Cancel will NOT change any global variables or attributes to the current Control Panel settings.
Using Cancel to close the Control Panel when MCP Endeavor is first started will force the application to use one default test and one default category.

Cancel will NOT allow the user to exit the Control Panel if an invalid configuration has been created (ie. no/invalid test, no categories selected, etc.).

See also Control Panel - Save

CONTROL PANEL - Name

The Name assigned to the 'Control Panel settings' is always displayed on the Control Panel screen.   When testing is idle it is also displayed on the <u>Testing Screen</u>.

Up to 50 characters can be used to name the configuration.

Alphanumeric characters, plus embedded spaces are the only recommended characters.

The Control Panel Name exists to provide a meaningful reminder of the current Control Panel settings.

The original name is: Default

See also <u>CONTROL PANEL - Save</u>

CONTROL PANEL - DataPath

The DataPath indicates the path (drive:\directory...) where MCP Endeavor resides.

This path is the first parameter saved in the ENDEAVOR.INI file.

If MCP Endeavor is copied to a new directory, the .INI file must be manually modified or the product must be reinstalled.   (See INIREAD.ME)

If MCP Endeavor cannot locate the INI file when the application is launched, a dialog box will appear asking for the location.   If the files cannot be located, or the DataPath saved in the ENDEAVOR.INI file is not where MCP Endeavor files are located,   the program cannot start.

See also General Features - Configuration

CONTROL PANEL - Caution

If the data and othernecessary files cannot be located in the <u>DataPath</u>, the application will repeatedly terminate.   (See INIREAD.ME)

Selecting only 'Previously Attempted' questions in combination with tests and categories not previously used or after Performance history has been Reset, will result in no questions being asked.

Exiting the Control Panel via "Cancel" in the opening sequence will force the program to implement a default test/category combination.

See also <u>General Features - Configuration</u>

TESTING - Start

All tests are started from the <u>Testing Screen</u> by pressing the Start icon (seen here) or by using the pull down menu.

The test will continue until no more questions meet selected criteria, the number of questions is reached or the Stop button is pressed by the user.

Tests can only be started after all criteria has been set through the Control Panel and the Control Panel has been exited via OK.

Starting the test will disable all utilities (tools, print test, search), as well as access to the Control Panel.

If no questions are answered and evaluated, no entry will be added to the scoring history.

TESTING - Stop

Testing will terminate under any one of three conditions: no more questions meet selected criteria, the number of questions limit is reached or the Stop button (seen here) is pressed by the user.

When a test is terminated for any of the above reasons: the score is immediately reported, the scoring history file is updated and all previously disabled functions are reinstated.

TESTING - Pause

The Pause function has only one purpose, to temporarily suspend the timer.   This function should be used only by those concerned about taking tests for time.

Press the pause icon a second time, to release pause and resume testing.

The Pause Icon (seen here) is available only during a test.   The pause function is also available from the pull down menu.

TESTING - Show Answer/Evaluation

Evaluation is a crucial element in the learning, testing and question selection process.

When a test is started the first question (meeting the user defined criteria) is displayed.

After formulating a response (typed, thought or said aloud) click the Show Answer button.

The user is responsible for comparing the shown answer to the given response.   The next question will not appear until the user clicks an evaluation box (correct, partial or incorrect) or skip.

If a typed response exactly matches the correct answer, the test will automatically advance to the next question.   This only normally occurs when true/false or very short answers are correct.

Any flags (Never Ask, Always Ask)   to be set, must be marked before evaluation.

If the user determines a question should be skipped this option is available, it will not be counted as an attempted question.   This will not affect that questions ability to appear in future tests.

See also Scoring - Immediate Results, Testing - Always/Never Flags

TESTING - Always/Never Ask Flags

The 'Always/Never Ask' flags takes precedence over all other selected criteria.

'Never Ask' flags cannot be manually reset (because the never reappear).   In the Tools section a utility exists to reset all 'Never Ask' flags.   This utility is only way to retrieve once banished questions.

 Unlike the 'Never Ask' flags, the 'Always Ask' flags can be individually toggled on and off whenever the question appears.

Any question can be flagged as 'Never Ask'.

See also Tools - Reset 'Always Ask' flags, Tools - Reset 'Never Ask' flags

TESTING - Icons

Several functions and utilities could potentially interfere with the testing process, others require the test to be running.   Therefore, the corresponding icons of some functions are greyed out and unavailable depending on the testing status (idle or active).

The most notable feature unavailable during a test is the Control Panel.   This prevents changes in question selection <u>criteria</u> in the middle of a test.

TESTING - Reverse

Using the Reverse icon (available only during tests), will allow the user to Reverse navigate through previously asked questions.

Forward motion will resume automatically.

Use the Skip button to navigate forward to previous location or resume testing from question reversed to.

Clicking the play button will automatically jump the user to the question where the Reverse button was first applied.

TESTING - Methods, Hints and Tips

Constructing a personal testing environment through the manipulation of the Control Panel is vital to the successful use of MCP Endeavor.

Set the Focus On (Performance History) to select only those questions in an area of weakness.   Take the test repeatedly.   As questions are answered correctly, the QuestionHistory will change, and some will no longer meet the weakness criteria.   As this occurs, questions are filtered out until eventually all questions have been mastered. Conversely, areas of strength can be reviewed and confirmed by selecting only the Very Strong and Strong check boxes.

When approaching new testing areas, it is best to choose fewer categories with broad criteria(ie. select both strength and weakness, select both previously attempted and previously unattempted).   This keeps the number of questions at a manageable level. After each question begins to develop QuestionHistory, the criteria can be narrowed allowing the user to focus on specific learning needs.

SCORING - Immediate Results

Immediate results are displayed whenever a test terminates for any reason.

This screen will show the number of questions attempted, the number of items scored as correct, partially correct and incorrect.   Additionally, the display will include scoring percentage and total test time (reported in minutes).

The bar represents the score in percentage, green for percentage correct and red for remaining incorrect percentage.

See also Scoring History

SCORING - History

Fifteen previously attempted test results can be accessed in the Scoring History section (icon seen here).
1. From an idle <u>Testing Screen</u>, click the icon (pictured here) or use the pull down menu to access the Scoring History.

2. Click on the Close button to return to the testing screen.

Each entry lists: the name of the attempted test (with an available pull down menu listing categories selected for that test), the date the test was taken, the number of items attempted, the evaluation score (calculated percentage) and the total number of minutes the test lasted.

Be careful when looking for trends in the scoring history screen.   The user defined criteria can change drastically from test to test which can invalidate what could appear to be an upward or downward trend.   This is why a chart or graphical representation of these score has been omitted, it is potentially very misleading.

The scoring history screen primarily exists to remind which tests are areas of strength and which are areas of weakness.

If you are using a repetitive testing method, trends will be valid.

SCORING - Overview

The Scoring Overview lists every category in the current test in a color coded form according to the   cumulated score for every attempted question recorded in the Performance History.

Green represents areas of strength, yellow an area of mediocre perfomance and red an area of weakness.

The Overview function is design to give the user a complete picture of personal performance for each test.

The Overview can only report the current test.

SCORING - Method of Evaluation

Points are accumulated after each question is attempted.   1 point for a correct answer, 0.5 for a partially correct answer and 0 for an incorrect answer.

When the test is terminated, the score will be reported in a percentage based on total accumulated points divided by the number of items attempted.

Obviously, higher percentages indicate a higher comprehension of covered material.

TOOLS - Reset 'Always Ask' flags

'Always Ask' flags are <u>check boxes</u> that can be set whenever a question and/or answer appears on the <u>testing screen</u>.   Checking the 'Always Ask' box will make any flagged question appear in future tests regardless of other <u>criteria</u> (only when the current category and test are selected).

This utility will erase all 'Always Ask' flags for either the CURRENT selected categories or ALL categories depending on the selection in the APPLY TO box.

Unlike the 'Never Ask' flags, the 'Always Ask' flags can be toggled on and off individually whenever the question appears.

There is verification (Are you sure?) for all Tools.   Once "YES" is clicked, the process begins.

All 'reset utilities' should be used cautiously.

See also <u>Testing - Always/Never Ask Flags</u>

![icon]

TOOLS - Reset current 'Never Ask' flags

'Never Ask' flags are <u>check boxes</u> that can be used whenever a question and/or answer appears on the <u>testing screen</u>.   Checking the 'Never Ask' box will insure the flagged question will not reappear regardless of other <u>criteria</u> anytime the current category and test are selected.

This utility will reset all 'Never Ask' flags for either the CURRENT selected categories or ALL categories depending on the selection in the APPLY TO box.

'Never Ask' flags cannot be manually reset (because the never reappear), this utility is only way to retrieve once banished questions.

There is verification (Are you sure?) for all Tools.   Once "YES" is clicked, the process begins.

All 'reset utilities' should be used cautiously.

See Also <u>Testing - Always/Never Ask Flags</u>

TOOLS - Reset current 'Performance History'

This utility will reset the QuestionHistory for   the CURRENT or ALL categories, depending on the selection in the APPLY TO box.

After resetting the QuestionHistory, the Focus On (Performance History) criteria will be ignored until a new history forms.   After a new history develops, the Control Panel Focus On (Performance History) criteria will automatically be re-applied.

There is verification (Are you sure?) for all Tools.   Once "YES" is clicked, the process begins.

If the Select Questions criteria is set to select only 'previously attempted' questions, no previously attempted questions will be found. Scoring history and other tests will not be affected.

TOOLS - Apply To

Tools can only be used in conjunction with the current test.

Tool functions can be applied to either the current categories (those selected in the Control Panel) or all categories (those selected and those not selected in the Control Panel).

See also Testing - Always/Never Ask Flags

TOOLS - Repairing a corrupt ENDEAVOR.MDB file

If for any reason the ENDEAVOR.MDB (the database) file becomes corrupt the external utility 'MCP Endeavor DBfix' will repair it.   This utility can be run from the 'MCP Endeavor' Window Group.   It is NOT accessible from anywhere with the main program.   DBfix will attempt to locate the current ENDEAVOR.MDB file based on the information contained in the INIREAD.ME file.   If it is not located, the Repair button will be disabled.   Locate the correct file using the Locate dialog box (if necessary) and then simply click Repair.

It is not likely that this file will become corrupt.   Probable causes include: power failure or hardware failure will the program is writing to the database file.

Symptoms of a corrupt database file are: unpredictable database behavior and/or repetitve crashes.   While you will not damage the file running this utility if the database is not corrupt, it is not necessary or recommended that it be executed regularly.

HOW TO ORDER - Overview

If you wish to purchase MCP Endeavor, you have several options.   Details for each option are available
throughout the program.   The latest ordering information can be found in the ORDER.ME, READ.ME and ORDERFRM.PRT ASCII files.

Register directly through CompuServe: GO SWREG   (Search "MCP" or "VFX")

VISA/MC can be used to order from NorthStar Solutions. Hours of operation are from 10AM to 10PM Eastern Standard Time, seven days a week.   From   the US, call **toll free**: 800/699-6395, from outside the US, call: 803/699-6395.   Printed order forms can be faxed to NorthStar at: 803/699-5465   (Available 24 hrs).   Products being shipped to the US are sent via 2nd day mail, outside the US, standard mail.   Same day email delivery whenever possible.

VISA/MC/AMEX/DISC can be used to order from Gene's Books.   In addition, to MCP Endeavor, Gene's Books offers a complete selection of reference and study guide materials.   610/265-6210 (Ask for corporate orders department, you will NOT be asked to purchase additional materials you do not want!)   Products being shipped to the US are sent via 2nd day mail, outside the US, standard mail.   Same day email delivery whenever possible.

Checks, money orders or credit card information can be sent directly to VFX Technologies, Inc.   For address see View/Print Order Form.   (NOTE: FOR YOUR PROTECTION, DO NOT EMAIL CREDIT CARD INFORMATION!)

Credit card users can call VFX Technologies, Inc. directly (VISA/MC/AMEX/DISC) at 610/265-9222 (extension 1).

If you have technical questions please contact us prior to ordering.

See also How to Order,   Technical Support

HOW TO ORDER - View Order Form

For instructions on how to purchase MCP Endeavor directly from VFX Technologies, Inc. click the icon (pictured here) from the Testing Screen at any time.

Detailed information is also available within the help system now in use.

See also How to Order - Print Order Form

HOW TO ORDER - Print Order Form

For convenience, an order form can be printed by clicking the Print Order Form button located on the View Order information screen.   This function is available before, during and after testing.

If a printer is not easily accessible, follow the instructions in either the help system or click on the <u>View Order Form</u> icon.   The Order Form is also stored as an ASCII file in the default directory.

It is not necessary to include the printed order form as long as proper payment, ship to address, phone number and disk size are included in the order.   (Email address optional).

HOW TO ORDER - Direct through CompuServe

MCP Endeavor can be registered directly through CompuServe.

For details, instructions or to order: GO SWREG   (Search "MCP" or "VFX")

Automatic same day email delivery.   (Please allow a few hours for order processing.)

Additionally, product is shipped the next business day.

See also How to Order - Registration Benefits

HOW TO ORDER - Ordering from Northstar Solutions

MCP Endeavor can be registered through NorthStar Solutions.

NorthStar accepts VISA and MasterCard.   Hours of operation are from 10AM to 10PM Eastern Standard Time, seven days a week.

From within the United States, call toll free: 800/699-6395

From outside the United States, call: 803/699-6395

Printed order forms can be faxed to NorthStar at: 803/699-5465   (Available 24 hrs)

Orders are always shipped within 24 hours, usually the same day via 2nd day mail.   Same day email delivery request welcome.

HOW TO ORDER - Ordering from Gene's Books

MCP Endeavor can be optionally be purchased directly from Gene's Books.   Gene's Books is an innovative bookstore located in the suburbs of Philadelphia.   In addition, to carrying MCP Endeavor, Gene's offers a huge selection of computer related texts and magazines.   Any reference books, study guides or other published materials you may need to fulfill your information needs can be obtained here at extremely competitive prices.   Of course, orders for MCP Endeavor are welcome at Gene's and there will be no additional sales pitch to order books, but if you are looking for one stop shopping, its all only one phone call away.

Gene's Books can be contacted at 610/265-6210, please ask for the corporate orders department when calling.

Orders are always shipped within 24 hours, usually the same day.   Same day email delivery requests welcome.

Gene's accepts ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS.

HOW TO ORDER - Benefits of Licensing Software

Registered users will receive:

Between 400 and 1,100 questions per test!

The latest revision of MCP Endeavor interface.

Personal notification of updates.

Deep discounts and/or free   on all future releases.

Priority technical support.

HOW TO ORDER - Pricing

Please refer to the READ.ME, ORDER.ME and ORDERPRT.FRM files for current pricing.

Discounts are offered to those   paying   by check sent directly to VFX Technologies, Inc. Conversely, those purchasing products through online services, retailers or directly from VFX using credit cards will be charged a small credit card processing fee.

Through various retail channels products can be purchased with Visa, Master Card, American Express or Discover Card.

In addition, to our fully registered product, tests are also sold both individually and in packages.

HOW TO ORDER - Update Policy

Major interface updates may be offered to users at a deep discount, available at no cost or may be offered for the cost of shipping.   Please refer to the READ.ME file for the specific infromation relating to your purchase.

Anyone purchasing the product within 90 days prior to a major release will receive the new version free of charge.

Contact VFX Technologies for the current release date schedule.

Minor interface updates frequently become available.   Often these updates can be delivered via email for only the cost of connect charges, if applicable.   These deliveries are usually only made on request, users may or may not be notified of each minor update.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT - CompuServe

Technical support is available via CompuServe (CIS).   All correspondence to VFX Technologies, Inc. should be forwarded to this CIS address: 70543,366

There is no charge associated with support, except normal CIS connection/time charges if applicable.

VFX Technologies, Inc. is committed to helping everyone interested in our products with the utmost speed and courtesy.   Please do not hesitate to contact us for any reason.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT - America OnLine

Technical support is available through America OnLine (AOL).   All correspondence to VFX Technologies, Inc. should be forwarded to this AOL address: VFX

There is no charge associated with support, except normal AOL connection/time charges if applicable.

VFX Technologies, Inc. is committed to helping everyone interested in our products with the utmost speed and courtesy.   Please do not hesitate to contact us for any reason.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT - Internet

Technical support is available through the Internet.   All correspondence should be forwarded to this address: vfxtech@ix.netcom.com

There is no charge associated with support, except normal Internet connection/time charges if applicable.
VFX Technologies, Inc. is committed to helping everyone interested in our products with the utmost speed and courtesy.   Please do not hesitate to contact us for any reason.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT - US Mail

If for any reason other communication channels are unavailable.   Please write at us at the address below:

VFX Technologies, Inc.
PO Box 80222
Valley Forge, PA 19484-0222

TECHNICAL SUPPORT - Fax Back

Registered users may request that any technical inquiry be answered via fax for those without an email address requiring assistance that cannot be present to receive response.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT - Phone

Registered users may call to request technical support.   (VFX Technologies, Inc. 610/265 9222 ext. 3)

Be prepared to leave a detailed message.   If possible, state your email address in addition to your name and phone number.

Average response time for 1995 was under 3 hours.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT - Other Issues

VFX Technologies, Inc. is committed to providing the highest quality software and unequalled customer support.

DataPath is the term describing the directory where MCP Endeavor and all associated files reside.   The default directory for MCP Endeavor is (i.e: C:\iconedit\).

Users can **Focus** on areas of strength, weakness or any combination thereof by using the Focus On (Performance History) box located in the Control Panel either.   Proper use of this box will filter questions in and out of tests based on the Performance History, which can be seen for individual questions from the main testing screen.

Select Questions is an option box located on the Control Panel that determines whether previously attempted, previously unattempted questions or both will be selected.   It is part of the test criteria.

ENDEAVOR.INI is the file name containing configuration information.   Stored within this file are the DataPath, the font name, font size, and the individual colors of the question, answer and response boxes.   Additional information regarding this file is available in the INIREAD.ME file.

The **Performance History** is a record of the last ten attempts for each question.   Each attempt has four possible states: correct (green), partially correct (yellow), incorrect (red), unattempted (grey). Tests can be created based on Performance History through the **Focus On** box located in the Control Panel.

A **Dialog Box** will help the user define the attributes of a complex object or simplify a complex procedure.   Complex objects would be printers, screen displays and files. Complex procedures would be finding files, assigning colors and selecting printers.

The **Testing Screen** is the primary display throughout MCP Endeavor. From this screen all questions and answers are revealed.   The Testing Screen also contains all icons and pull down menus, which encompass the entire MCP Endeavor application.

The **Help System** is the collective group of information boxes, error messages, message boxes and the main help file itself (now in use).

Check Boxes appear on screens requiring user input.   One, many or zero check boxes can be selected at any time.   When a check box is considered selected an 'X' appears in the box to the left of the corresponding menu choice.   An unselected box is empty.

The **About** screen.   Brief information about the specific product.

The **READ.ME** file contains up to the minute information not included in the help file or other program documentation.

The **Test Name** is selected from the Control Panel and always displayed on the Testing Screen.

The **Question Box**.   The current test name and category appear on the bottom of the screen.

The **Answer Box** is where correct answer appears when the user clicks the Show Answer button, after   formulating a response.

The **Response Box** can be optionally used to type in answers.   Matching answers will be automatically scored as correct and the test will advance to the next question.   To cover more material faster, skip typing in the answer by simply responding aloud, or in thought followed by the self evaluation.   Although slower, users may find that typing   is more memorable than simply formulating a response in thought.

The **Categories** are selected from the Control Panel.   The current Category is displayed on the Testing Screen during play mode.

The **Question Counter** displays both the current question number and the number of available questions.

The current **System Time** is constantly displayed on the Testing Screen.

The **Criteria** is the collective group of attributes that determine which questions will be selected during a test.   The criteria is primarily defined through the Control Panel.

A **Keyword** is any series of user defined characters the search function attempts to locate.