Notes on Version 3.20

* This started out to be maintenance release 3.14, but so many changes were made, it certainly warrants a minor release number.
* Added a subparameter (V) to the /S parameter. /SV causes running status reports to be displayed on the console.
* Corrected a minor bug in the statistics display. When you sort a file with more than 32767 records, the number of records reported looked strange.
* Revised the method of displaying error messages, and made error message text more or less consistent.
* Added a whole new section to the documentation dealing with error messages and their causes.
* Revised the method of parsing the command line. Contrary to the documentation, you may now run command line switches together. "/S/R/?/20:6/15:5" will do precisely what you would expect. If you use this technique with the /D or /T parameters, be careful! These parameters should always be last in a string of switches, or they may NOT work as expected. "/D8/?" will cause a sort of records with 8 fields delimited by "/" and terminated by "?"! Not what you had in mind, at all! The reason is that the /D and /T switches are optionally followed by delimiter <u>characters</u> and "/" is just as valid as a delimiter as any other character, and more valid than most. For safety's sake, I encourage you to surround command line parameters with white space.

Notes on Version 3.13

* This release cleans up the last (I hope) potential undetected I/O errors.

Notes on Version 3.12

* A bug (an oversight, actually) has existed for some time which caused QSORT to fail to recognize an "out of disk spate" condition when writing temporary merge files. The situation is corrected in this version.
* The QSTMP environment variable was documented in version 3.10, but through another oversighe, not actually implimented 'till now. The current version will search for environment variables QSTMP, TMP and TEMP in that order, looking for a place to put temporaries.

Notes on Version 3.11

* Rewrote many internal functions in assembly language.

Notes on Version 3.10

* Added support for delimited field records. A side benefit
  of this feature is the ability to redefine the newline se-
  quence for this and other types of ASCII files.
* Improved output buffering.
* Converted all documentation to Microsoft Word.

Notes on Version 3.00

* Converted from Lattice C, version 3.1 to Microsoft C, ver-
  sion 4.0.   This change alone resulted in about a 10 %
  improvement in performance.
* Performed major redesign of QSORT's I/O, buffer handling
  and internal data structures. This change resulted in an
  additional 60 % performance improvement. This improvement
  was measured by sorting the same 210K file:
      QSORT 2.1   1:48
      QSORT 3.00 0:42
* Dropped support for QSORTL (large data model).
* Removed the necessity for the /M<len> parameter. QSORT
  will now sort files with variable length records of any
  size, provided only that the two largest records will fit
  together in the sort buffer. This imposes a record length
  constraint of about 50K for the sum of these record
  lengths.
* Added the option of specifying the output file as a com-
  mand line argument. The following two commands are ex-
  actly equivalent:
      QSORT <INFILE >OUTFILE   and
      QSORT INFILE OUTFILE
* Added support for the /? help parameter.
* Added the /S parameter to produce a "statistics" screen
  report at the end of a QSORT run.
* Added support for the QSTMP and TMP environment variables
  to specify a path for temporary merge files.
* QSORT documentation was largely rewritten.

Notes on Version 2.1

* Converted form Lattice C version 3.0 to version 3.1.
* Added /F<len> parameter and support for fixed-length
  records.   Records may contain binary data, but keys must
  be ASCII.
* Added several special-purpose record compare routines.
  QSORT selects the most efficient one for a given sort,
  based upon the combination parameters on the command line.

Notes on Version 2.0

* Converted from Lattice C, version 2.14 to version 3.0. This change achieved about 15 % performance improvement.

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* Began distributing both QSORT and QSORTL (large data model). The latter shows performance gains on very large (> 750K) files.
* Added /T[<tag_char>] parameter and support for multi-line logical records.

Notes on Version 1.2

* Added "lexical" ordering of key fields.

Notes on Version 1.1

* Added /M<len> parameter to permit specifying maximum record lengths in excess of the default 132 bytes.
* Corrected bug to permit <col> element of key field specifier to be optional, defaulting to column 1. Program now matches documentation.