



Important Information for CheckIt PRO Analyst 1.10

This README file contains important information that is not included in the CheckIt PRO: Analyst *User's Guide* or in the Help Index. Each topic has its own number so you can use the Find command (under the Find menu) to quickly jump to any section. Just type in the number for the section you wish to view.

Important Operating information:

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1.1 -- Don't Use ALT+ TAB during Collect data or testing!

CheckIt PRO: Analyst collects data and runs tests in *exclusive, non-background* mode. Therefore, as with any program that operates in this mode, using the ALT+TAB while collecting data or testing can cause the system to hang. If the program was coded so ALT+TAB was made functional, the data collected would be inaccurate, and the tests would operate improperly. CheckIt PRO: Analyst does not "lock you out" of using ALT+TAB, because doing so would disable the program's ability to have progress indicators.

You can use the ALT+TAB command at any other time while CheckIt PRO Analyst is open.

1.2 -- If CKDATA, CKWDATA, or Collect data hangs.....

It is uncommon but possible for CheckIt PRO: Analyst to have hardware incompatibility problems when collecting data due to the millions of different combinations of hardware and software. If this unlikely hanging occurs during data collections, you can exclude the device that is not responding correctly to CheckIt PRO: Analyst's inquiries.

During data collection, the information currently being collected is displayed in the collection screen. The component that causes the process to hang will be shown on the screen when the PC hangs. Try excluding this component and then run the data collection process again.

Exclusions when collecting inside CheckIt PRO: Analyst

When you select the Collect Data command from the CheckIt PRO: Analyst File menu, you can make exclusions by checking the appropriate boxes on the Select Exclusions screen. You can save a set of exclusions by clicking on the "Save as Defaults" button.

Exclusions when collecting from Windows (CKWDATA)

When you collect data from Windows but outside of CheckIt PRO: Analyst using CKWDATA, use the same Select Exclusions screen to make collection exclusions.

Exclusions when collecting from DOS (CKDATA)

When using the CKDATA file to gather data from DOS, you can use the following syntax to add the exclusions and collection limitations:

```
CKDATA filename /X:xxx,xxx,xxx,xxx,xxx /N:"Description"
```

The "/X:" is a command switch that allows you to add the exclusions to the CKDATA command. Replace "xxx" with as many exclusions as you like, being sure to place a comma in-between each exclusion. The following exclusions can be used with the /X command switch:

DOS Exclusion

BEN	Exclude gathering benchmark data
FIL	Exclude gathering files data
HD	Don't check for hard drive information
FD	Don't check for floppy drive information
VDO	Don't check for super-VGA chipset or video memory
IRQ	Don't check IRQ assignments
COM	Don't check serial ports
LPT	Don't check parallel ports
SND	Don't check for sound cards
EMS	Don't check for expanded memory
BUS	Don't identify the bus architecture
NPU	Don't check for a math coprocessor
IOP	Don't check the I/O ports
BIOS	Don't check the I/O ports directly, use BIOS
RTC	Don't check real-time clock

1.3 -- CKANLYST.INI

A duplicate backup copy of CKANLYST.INI is automatically installed to the Analyst program directory (default is C:\ANALYST) in case you accidentally delete or modify the original. The backup file is CKAINI.SAV.

1.4 -- Restoring CMOS Tables

You can use the CheckIt PRO: Analyst utility program CKCMOS.EXE to restore CMOS tables that have been destroyed for any machine from which you have collected data. The CKCMOS.EXE applet requires a data file (with an extension of CMO) which stores CMOS information. The steps below detail how to restore a corrupted or missing CMOS table:

- 1 Load the CKD file for the machine whose CMOS you wish to restore.
- 2 Select the CMOS Data command from the Config menu, or click on the CMOS button.
- 3 Click on the Save As button on the CMOS Data screen. The file must be saved with the extension .CMO.
- 4 Copy the *.CMO file to a floppy that can be read by the machine whose CMOS you are going to restore.
- 5 Go to the machine that has the bad CMOS table and use the CKCMOS applet. Use the following syntax to run CKCMOS:

CKCMOS [CMO filename]

For more help using the CKCMOS applet, type CKCMOS /? [Enter].

1.5 -- A note on Memory Errors

If you are experiencing RAM failures or Parity errors and various addresses are intermittently reported, there are two probable causes:

- 1 All RAM Chips or modules are not the same speed (e.g. 70ns),
- 2 Using 386 Enhanced mode can cause a false "Parity Error" alarm if a disk error occurs when accessing a Permanent or Temporary swap file.

1.6 -- Association of CKD Files

As CKD files are created, they are automatically associated to CheckIt PRO: Analyst. Associated files are identified by a filename extension as belonging to a specific program. When opening a file that has been associated to a program, the program starts automatically. Therefore, by opening any CKD file, CheckIt PRO: Analyst will be automatically started.

This association is controlled in the WIN.INI file. During the setup process, the line shown below is added to the "[Extensions]" section of your WIN.INI file.

CKD=C:\ANALYST\CKANLYST.EXE ^ .CKD

1.7 -- Collecting Data under Various Platforms

The CheckIt PRO: Analyst menu collect, the CKDATA.EXE applet for DOS, and the CKWDATA.EXE applet for Windows provide the means for collecting data in a variety of operating environments. The CKD files produced when running in these various platforms may differ slightly (and some platforms are not suitable -other methods are preferred) for collecting the most accurate CKD files. The list below summarizes preferred data collection methods and platforms:

	DOS	Windows Enh.	Windows Std.	OS/2
Analyst Menu Collect	--	Preferred	--	--
CKDATA Applet	Yes	OK (DOS I/O)	OK (DOS I/O)	Preferred (DOS I/O)
CKWDATA Applet	--	Preferred	--	OK (DOS>Win Enh mode)

Collecting Data on a DOS System

To collect a CKD file using DOS (without Windows or OS/2), simply go to the ANALYST directory and type CKDATA (you will be prompted for a filename and note), or type CKDATA filename /N:"note", or use the batch file provided with CheckIt PRO: Analyst and type CKCOLLECT. In any case, the CKDATA applet will take about 1 minute to run, and will create a file in the current directory that ends in *.CKD. If the CKDATA program does not complete properly and return you to the DOS prompt within a minute or two, you may have encountered a low-level equipment sensitivity problem. Note the message in the CKDATA message box and rerun the program excluding collection of the data being referenced. To view a list of the parameters used to exclude collection of specific data elements, type CKDATA /? at the DOS prompt.

The data in the resulting CKD file can be loaded into CheckIt PRO: Analyst, running on a system using Windows. Data collected under native DOS (CKDATA) will differ from CKD files collected under Windows (Analyst menu or CKWDATA applet) in the following ways:

- DOS may show a different amount, type and version of XMS memory

- Devices which are only installed for access via a Windows device driver will not be visible under DOS, including the Windows Mouse Driver
- IRQ settings for DOS may vary with Windows IRQ assignments, due to the differences in devices described above.
- Certain Windows details (version) will not be reported under DOS.
- Performance benchmarks for DOS will generally be 30-50% better than the same system running Windows.

Collecting Data under Windows

There are two preferred methods for collecting data under Windows Enhanced Mode, which will produce identical results and include all of the Windows information available:

1. CheckIt PRO: Analyst - File Menu / Collect function: You will be prompted for the name and description of a CKD file that will be written to the ANALYST\DATA directory. CheckIt PRO: Analyst function will first spawn the CKDATA DOS applet to collect basic hardware information (in a small DOS box), and then collect additional information about Windows and add that information to the file. To collect data in this way, you must have installed the complete CheckIt PRO: Analyst application -- therefore, this method will be suitable primarily for individual users (i.e., collecting and viewing information from your own machine only).
2. Run the CKWDATA applet (a windows version of CKDATA) which may be copied to other systems without licensing the full Analyst application for each one. It prompts for a CKD file name and description, which will be written into the current directory, and executes CKDATA in a DOS box and then adds Windows information, as described above.
3. If you only have Windows Standard Mode available, you must use a DOS Box to run the DOS version of the CKDATA program, which will create a file with the same limitations as described for DOS Data Collection, above. You can also run the full CheckIt PRO: Analyst application in Windows Standard Mode, but you cannot use the Collect or Test functions because they require multi-tasking support. Neither the CheckIt PRO: Analyst menu or the CKWDATA applet can be used in Windows Standard Mode because they require multi-tasking.

OS/2 Data Collection

DOS Full Screen Mode (CKDATA): Collecting data in this way will be valid for testing the environment to be used by DOS programs under OS/2. It will not reflect the native OS/2 environment.

To collect a CKD using the OS/2 DOS compatibility mode, you will need to configure an icon for the CKDATA applet (the DOS version) and set the OS/2 Session Settings to reflect your configuration. This method enables data to be collected from OS/2 systems without licensing the full Analyst application for each one. The program prompts for a CKD file name and description, which will be written into the current directory, and executes CKDATA in a DOS box.

The data collected using this method will include complete OS/2 software information, including the CONFIG.SYS file for OS/2, rather than DOS. This file defines many of the operating system options available with OS/2 and is a major source of information. Only partial Windows and DOS data (certain revision numbers and other information is hidden by OS/2), and the Windows Device Capabilities display is not available. This method is best for analyzing setups intended to operate in the OS/2 environment.

The data in the resulting CKD file can be loaded into the CheckIt PRO: Analyst program, running on a system using Windows. Data collected under OS/2 using the DOS Compatibility mode will differ from CKD files collected under DOS or Windows in the following ways, largely dependent on your Session Settings:

- May show a different amount, type and version of XMS memory
- Devices which are only installed for access via a Windows or OS/2 device driver will not be visible under DOS, including the Windows Mouse Driver
- IRQ settings may vary with OS/2 or Windows IRQ assignments, due to the differences in devices described above.
- Certain Windows details (version) will not be reported.
- Performance benchmarks for OS/2 may be roughly the same speed as the same system running DOS

1.8 -- If you install CheckIt PRO: Analyst on a Network

If you are installing CheckIt PRO: Analyst on a Network, be advised that all files are installed with a Read/Write attribute. When installing CKDATA.EXE and CKWDATA.EXE on a network, you may wish to change these files to have a Read Only attribute so users cannot modify/delete these programs. Do not however, change the attribute of CKWDATA.PIF. This file must allow Read/Write access.

1.9 -- Using CKWDATA with Dashboard

The best way to collect data using the CKWDATA program is to copy the CKWDATA.EXE, CKWDATA.PIF and CKDATA.EXE files to your local drive and create an icon for the CKWDATA program. If you must run CKWDATA from a floppy however, you must use either the Windows Program Manager or File Manager RUN command. The Dashboard RUN command will not run the CKWDATA program properly.

2.1 -- Interface and Display improvements

The original version CheckIt PRO: Analyst (v.1.0) was designed to be run in the standard Windows VGA mode or SVGA *without* the Large Font option selected. If users used a Large font in v.1.0, some of the button text and screens were not displayed properly. This issue has been resolved in v.1.10.

The positions and sizes of windows are saved from last use (rather than always reopened at maximum size). These settings are recorded in the CKANLYST.INI file under the [Positions] section, as shown below:

```
[Positions]
CheckIt Analyst=ULC, TOP, LRC, BTM, MAX, MIN
```

ULC = Numeric value of the location of Upper Left Corner

TOP = Numeric value of the location of Top

LRC = Numeric value of the location of Lower Right Corner

BTM = Numeric value of the location of Bottom

MAX = If value set to 1, Maximize, if any other, use numbers to left to set window

MIN = If value set to 1, Minimize, if any other, use numbers to left to set window

The Collect command now has an Exclude screen, making it easier to exclude components during data collection. To exclude a device during collection, simply check the appropriate box.

2.2 -- Support of Pentium Processor

CheckIt PRO: Analyst and its applets has been enhanced to work with the Pentium processors. The Main Screen, Hardware, and Sysinfo Report sections now identify the 60 and 66MHz Pentium processor types and speeds correctly. The newer System Board test applet, CKSYS.EXE, also recognizes and supports the Pentium Processor. Finally, the Rate

Performance benchmarks have been upgraded to work with the Pentium Processor. You will now see two PRF files, DOSPENT.PRF and WINPENT.PRF in the benchmark library.

2.3 -- Applet Size

The file sizes for all of the applets have been reduced, so they will allow for greater mobility if you own an MLE license. See chapter 1 of your CheckIt PRO: Analyst *User's Guide* for more information on the MLE. None of the applet's abilities have been compromised in this effort.

2.4 -- Changes to the PIF Settings

All of the CheckIt PRO: Analyst PIF files have had a change under the "Advanced Options". The Background and Foreground Priority settings have been changed from 1000 to 10000 to improve performance and better enforce exclusivity.

2.5 -- CheckIt PRO: Analyst in Standard Mode

The original version of CheckIt PRO: Analyst (v.1.00) was not designed to collect data or test in Standard Mode. This issue has been resolved in v.1.10. You can run CKWDATA or any of the tests while in Standard Mode.

2.6 -- Updates to the SFW and ADV Libraries

Both the Software Shopper and the Setup Advisor libraries (CKANLYST.SFW and ADV respectively) have been updated. Both libraries have been expanded to include more records.