

REFORMAT UTILITY

The Reformat Utility is a Visual Basic program that Constructs an output file from an input file based on control statements. The program also has the ability to unpack data fields in files that were downloaded from the Host.

The program was designed to be called from another Windows application (e.g. Access or Visual Basic)

CONTROL STATEMENTS

Reformat.exe reads control statements from a parm data set called **Parms.txt**. It looks for this file in the same directory that the reformat utility is in.

There are three type of control statements that must be specified in the parm file, INPUT, OUTPUT and FIELD.

The first control statement must be the INPUT statement. The format for this statement is: **INPUT=(*pathname*)**. This identifies the input file.

Example: INPUT=(c:\utility\testin.txt)

The second control statement must be the OUTPUT statement. The format for this statement is: **OUTPUT=(*pathname*)**. This identifies the output file.

Example OUTPUT=(c:\utility\testout.txt)

The remaining control statements describe the parts of the input file that are copied to the output file. The format for this statement is:

FIELD=(*starting position of input text, length of input text, [0 or 1]*). The third parameter in the FIELD statement indicates if the input data is in packed format or not. 0 indicates not packed data. 1 indicates packed data.

Example: FIELD=(18,34,0) Last Name field

Note: Comments are allowed after the ending parenthesis.

OUTPUT FILE

The output file is constructed by reading an input record and then creating an output record based on the FIELD statements. As each FIELD statement is processed, that data is moved to the output record and appended to the previous piece of data.

Example: FIELD=(3,10,0)
 FIELD-(20,5,0)

The output file in this case would contain 15 characters. The first 10 characters in the output file would come from the input record beginning at position 3. The next five characters in the output file would come from the input file beginning at position 20.

Input File: **ABCDEFGHIJKLMN**OPQRSTUVWXYZ

Output File: **CDEFGHIJKL**TUVWX

PACKED DATA

To unpack data from the input file you must code the third parameter of the FIELD statement as a 1. This indicates to the reformat program that the data in the input file is packed and must be unpacked in the output file. The length of the unpacked data in the output file is always twice as long as the length of the packed data field. The last character of unpacked data always contains a "+" or "-" sign to indicate whether the data is positive or negative. If the packed data contains a "D" in the sign position, the data is considered negative. Anything else is considered positive.

Example 1: FIELD=(3,3,1)

Input File: (Hex) 414243**09347F**414243
 (ASCII) ABC---ABC

Output File: (Hex) 303933334372B
 (ASCII) **09347+**

Example 2: FIELD=(3,3,1)

Input File: (Hex) 414243**09347D**414243
 (ASCII) ABC---ABC

Output File: (Hex) 303933334372B
 (ASCII) **09347-**

MAIN WINDOW

The Main Window of the Reformat utility has a graph which depicts the progress of reformatting the input file.

PROGRAM MESSAGES

Write over *pathname* ?

The specified output file already exists. The system asks if you want to write over it.

ERROR MESSAGES

Parms.txt file not found

The Parms.txt file was not found in the directory where the reformat program resides.

No INPUT parameter record

The INPUT control statement was not found or was not the first record in the parameter file.

Error in INPUT statement

An error was found in the format of the INPUT control statement.

No OUTPUT parameter record

The OUTPUT control statement was not found or was not the first record in the parameter file.

Error in OUTPUT statement

An error was found in the format of the OUTPUT control statement.

There are no FIELD statements

No FIELD statements were found in the Parameter file.

Error in Parm record ## - *image of parm record*

An error was encountered while processing the FIELD statement. The number of the FIELD statement and an image of FIELD statement is displayed.

Input file *pathname* not found

The file specified by the INPUT statement was not found.

Invalid Packed data in input record ##

The packed data did not contain only digits 0 - 9. The input record number is displayed.

PROGRAM FILES

Reformat.exe - Compiled Visual Basic Program

CONTROL FILES

Parms.txt - Contains Program control statements

SYSTEM FILES IN \WINDOWS\SYSTEM DIRECTORY

VBRUN300.DLL - Visual Basic Run time file

GAUGE.VBX - DLL for Gauge used in the program