

Handing Off Your 1-2-3 Files
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...123 can create several different files types. The three major file types are the worksheet file (.WKS), the printout file (.PRN), and a graphics file (.PIC). Confusion may arise when you use the XTRACT command to save a worksheet's formulas or values to a disk file. The extension in both these cases is still .WKS, the standard worksheet extension. These files created with the XTRACT command are different than those created with the normal SAVE command.

You might use two more types of extensions when you are using 123's Transfer facility. With Transfer, you can convert .WKS to .DIF files (123 format to DIF format); .WKS files to .DBF files (123 format to dBASE II format); .DIF files to .WKS files (DIF format to 123 format); .DBF files to .WKS files (dBASE II format to 123 format); .VC files to .WKS files (VisiCalc format to 123 format). Five file extensions need to be kept straight: .WKS, .DIF, .PRN, .PIC, and .DBF. .WKS files can be three possible types: the entire worksheet (formulas and values, created by the SAVE command), just the values (created by the XTRACT command), or just the formulas (also created by the XTRACT command). We will not use the .PIC graphic files and the .WKS formulas file for this article.

1-2-3 and dBASE II

*Creating a .DBF file from 1-2-3

Here's how to transfer 123 files into dBASE II. The first important step is to strip off all unused, unnecessary rows and columns from your 123 file. Also delete any blank columns, worksheet titles, and footnotes. These are not needed in dBASE and only confuse the program. It is also helpful to give the first column a column title. This title will later be used for a field name.

After modifying the worksheet, save the file using the SAVE command and follow these instructions:

1. From the first entry menu, enter the Translate facility.
2. Select the .WKS to .DBF option.
3. Enter the source drive letter.
4. Enter the source file name (the one you just saved).
5. Enter the destination drive letter.
6. Select the Worksheet option (which translates the entire worksheet).
7. Select YES (starts the translation).

A dBASE II compatible file should now be created with the .DBF extension.

*Reading the .DBF file into dBASE II

Follow the dBASE instructions to view, change, or print the new .DBF file since it is now a standard dBASE file. For instance, enter the commands .USE<filename> and .BROWSE to view the records send from 123.

*Creating a .DBF file from dBASE II

Again, follow the procedures for creating and then saving a database. The database file will normally have a .DBF extension.

*Reading the .DBF file into 1-2-3

Follow these instructions:

1. Enter the Translate facility from the first entry menu.
2. Select the .DBF to .WKS option.
3. Enter the source drive letter.

4. Enter the source file name.
5. Enter the destination drive letter.
6. Select YES (starts the translation process).
7. Now enter 123 and get the file with the RETRIEVE command.

1-2-3 and WordStar

WordStar requires the .PRN file to interface with 123.

*Creating .PRN file from 1-2-3

To view or modify a 123 worksheet using WordStar, you first have to create an ASCII print file with a .PRN extension. Follow these instructions to create this .PRN file:

1. After the worksheet has been created, select the Print option.
2. Select the File option (prints to a disk file instead of the printer).
3. Enter the file name (.PRN will be added automatically).
4. Select the Range option.
5. Using the range select methods, choose the section of the worksheet you want to copy. The selected area should be in reverse video or highlighted.
6. Select the Go option (starts printing to disk).

Now a .PRN file has been created.

*Reading the .PRN file into WordStar

Follow these steps:

1. From the beginning menu, select D (to open a document file).
2. Enter the filename with the .PRN extension.

The file should now be present on the screen.

*Creating a .PRN file from WordStar

This is even easier to do than reading a .PRN file. It just takes one step. With the file on the WordStar editing screen, enter Ctrl-KX. This command will save the file and exit WordStar. Just make sure that you named the file with a .PRN extension.

*Reading the .PRN file into 1-2-3

Just follow these simple steps:

1. Enter 123.
2. Select the File option.
3. Select the Import option.
4. Select the Text option.
5. Select the filename with the .PRN extension.

The WordStar file should appear on the screen. Notice that an extra blank line is inserted beside every original blank line. The blank lines can be deleted easily, but they are annoying.

In general, you will want the 123 worksheet information to go to either a word processor for reports or to and from a database program for filing and sorting. With word processors, you can usually be sure that you can send the information in a .PRN extension file and have the word processor work on that file like it would any other ASCII file. Database manager protocols are a bit more confusing, but not impossible to figure out. In most cases, the database management package you are using will be able to accept the .DBF format. Do not be afraid to experiment. Just make sure that you have backed up your original files and then play around with some of the options until something works.

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