

Automatic 1-2-3 Subdirectories
(PC World January 1985 Star-Dot-Star)

A problem arises with 123 when using a hard disk with worksheet files located in different subdirectories. It's inconvenient to issue commands to change the default directory each time you use the program, but a batch file will do the same thing.

Suppose that 123 is stored in the subdirectory \LOTUS with worksheet files in the subdirectories \WP, \WP\BUDGET, and \PRODUCT\FORECAST. First copy the file 123.CNF to 123X.CNF and then run 123. Issue the command /Worksheet Global Default Directory. Exit 123 and copy the file 123.CNF to a file whose name reflects the subdirectory name you just entered but ends with .CNF, such as BUDGET.CNF. Repeat these steps for each subdirectory, as needed. Rename the file LOTUS.COM as LOTUSX.COM. Then create the LOTUS.BAT file (below). To use the batch file, type LOTUS followed by the name you assigned to the .CNF file that corresponds to the subdirectory you desire, such as LOTUS BUDGET. If you don't specify a subdirectory, the original default directory in 123X.CNF will be used.

```
LOTUS.BAT:      ECHO OFF
                COPY %1.CNF 123.CNF >NUL
                LOTUSX
                COPY 123X.CNF 123.CNF >NUL
```

1-2-3 Subdirectory Menu
(PC World July 1985 Star-Dot-Star)

The 123 worksheet in DIRMENU.WKS provides an alternative to the method given for setting the LOTUS default directory in "Automatic 1-2-3 Subdirectories" (*.*, January 1985) (above). DIRMENU dispenses with the task of creating and saving separate copies of the 123.CNF file for each subdirectory. It also eliminates the file copying that takes place every time LOTUS is loaded under the previously given method. Instead, only one small worksheet needs to be kept in the 123 subdirectory. Follow these steps to create the worksheet:

1. Start 123 and set the /Worksheet Global Default Directory to the drive and directory from which 123 boots, then Update and Quit from this menu.

2. Type a list of the subdirectories you will want to access in column A, one per cell. Use /Worksheet Column-Width Set to adjust for long directory names.

3. Type the macro command labels as shown in cells B1, B2, and B4. The empty B3 cell will automatically fill in when the menu is used.

4. Now use /Range Name Create to name the macro \0 (the autoexecute macro) and assign it the cell range B1..B4. Use /Range Name Create again to name \R, another keyboard macro that references the same cell range.

5. Finally, use /File Save to store this as the automatic-loading worksheet by giving it the name AUTO123.

Now whenever 123 is started, this worksheet will appear on screen and act like a pull-down menu. You simply point with the cursor to the desired directory and press Enter. If you select an invalid directory, an error message to that effect will appear. You can then press Esc and use Alt-R (Restart) to pick another directory from the menu.

To add, delete, or edit directories in the menu, simply load 123, press Ctrl-Break, and make the necessary changes. You can use the Data Sort command to keep the list in column A neatly sorted. When done

making changes, issue the /File Save Replace command before pressing Alt-R to test the new menu.

```

                A
1  A:\                {Home}{?}/C-B3~
2  B:\                /WGDD{Esc}
3  C:\
4  C:\LOTUS          ~Q/WEY
5  C:\LOTUS\BALANCE
6  C:\LOTUS\DATABASE
7  C:\LOTUS\DATABASE2
8  C:\LOTUS\DATABASE2\IMPORTS
9  C:\LOTUS\INCOME
10 C:\LOTUS\MISC
11 C:\LOTUS\WKS
12 etc.

```

 Subdirectory Menu
 (PC Magazine Vol 4 No 13 June 25, 1985 Spreadsheet Clinic)

There is a relatively simple way using menu macros to choose subdirectories from 123 at the touch of a button. This is a great convenience for hard disk users who keep different 123 files in different subdirectories. If the file containing the menu macros is called AUTO123.WKS, and the initial macro is \0, you get a menu of options as soon as you enter 123.

The macro below contains explanations in column A. The long prompts in lines 31 and 42 have been shortened to fit the page, but they can be as long as will fit on the second row of the menu. The first menu lets you retrieve files from any of six different directories or, in column H, gives you the option of creating a new file for any of those six subdirectories. In either case, the macro changes 123's default directory according to the menu selection, and you end up with an old file to work with (line 34) or a blank screen in which to create a new one in (line 45). Since 123 menus allow no more than eight choices, this macro in its simplest form lets you choose from only eight subdirectories. But, if you name the last menu selection "More" you can use it to call up another menu of subdirectories.

 Figure: A menu macro to choose subdirectories from 123.

```

21                A                B                C
22
23  MACRO \0 ----->                /xmMENU~
24  AUTOMATICALLY CALLS UP
25  THE MENU CALLED "MENU"
26  WHICH IS IN RANGE
27  B30 TO H34
28
29  MENU:
30  SHORT PROMPT ----->                C:    A:    Accounting  Marketing
Personal    Bills    New File
31  LONG PROMPT ----->                Root  Floppy  EXPLANATION  EXPLANATION
EXPLANATION  EXPLANATION  Start a New File
32  FILE DIRECTORY COMMAND ->                /FD  /FD    /FD          /FD          /FD
/FD          /xmmenu2~
33  NAME OF CORRESP. DIRECTORY ->                C:\  A:\    C:\accntg   C:\market   C:\
personal  C:\bill

```

```

34 ALLOW USER TO RETRIEVE FILE ->  ~/FR  ~/FR  ~/FR          ~/FR          ~/FR
~/FR
35 FROM DIRECTORY WITH
36 FILE RETRIEVE COMMAND
37
38 THIS IS MENU 2 (RANGE B41 TO G45)
39 WHICH IS CALLED BY New File
40 IT'S FOR CREATING NEW FILES
41 SHORT PROMPT ----->          C:   A:   Accounting  Marketing
Personal  Bills
42 LONG PROMPT ----->          Root Floppy EXPLANATION EXPLANATION
EXPLANATION EXPLANATION
43 FILE DIRECTORY COMMAND ->      /FD  /FD  /FD          /FD          /FD
/FD
44 NAME OF CORRESP. DIRECTORY ->  C:\  A:\  C:\acctng  C:\market  C:\
personal C:\bill
45 ERASES WORKSHEET ----->     ~/wey ~/wey ~/wey          ~/wey          ~/wey
~/wey
46 SO USER CAN CREATE HIS OWN

```

Hard Disk Menu
(PC Magazine Vol 4 No 15 July 23, 1985 Spreadsheet Clinic)

When you use 123 with a hard disk, it's convenient to keep different kinds of files in different subdirectories. The macro-based menu system shown in Figures 1 and 2 is easy to use and lets you switch directories and retrieve commonly used files. If the menu system is put into a file named AUTO123.WKS, it will load automatically when you start up and display a menu (Figure 1). If you give cell J8 the range name \0 the macro will also start up immediately. It will send the cursor to cell E16 (the data entry cell), prompt you to make a selection, and then execute your choice.

The key to the macro is the series of IF statements in Figure 2. These cause the macro to branch to the different choices in cells J20 to J36. These choices must, of course, match the menu choices in Figure 1, but you can modify all of them to suit the needs of your system. You are limited only by your imagination and by what 123 allows. If you keep a copy of this file in all of your subdirectories, you can use it whenever you need to switch files or change drives. Also, even after you have made a choice from the menu, you can cause the macro to re-execute by hitting Alt-A. This reads the file in from disk once more and \0 autoexecutes all over again.

Editor's Note: This is an interesting alternative to macros that do the same thing by setting up menus with the /XM command (Vol 4 No 13 above). With the /XM command, you can choose from no more than eight options, but this method lets you choose from as many options as you can cram into one screen. Also, since you're not dealing with the control panel, you have greater freedom in setting up text to describe your menu choices. The branches in Figure 2 (J20..J36) are double-spaced so that each macro branch will end without running on to the branch below. You can save space by adding a /XQ to the end of each branch and removing the blank lines. /XQ will halt the macro. Just remember to renumber the XG commands in cells J10 to J17. Also, the Alt-A macro, which causes the whole thing to re-execute, can be eliminated. It's there only because you can't restart an autoexecute macro by hitting Alt-0. You can, however, give cell J8, which starts the autoexec macro, a second range name (say, \R for repeat). The

macro will still autoexecute, and by giving J8 another range name you can restart the autoexec macro just as you would any other macro, by hitting Alt-R. Re-execution is much quicker because you don't have to read the file in from disk again in order to restart the macro.

Figure 1: This screen will appear when you start 123.

```

CURRENT 1-2-3 FILES

1  Personal bank account
2  Company bank account
3  Investment portfolio
4  Software list
5  CHANGE DIRECTORY to B:
6  CHANGE DIRECTORY to C:\PERSONAL
7  CHANGE DIRECTORY to D:\BUSINESS
8  / File Retrieve - normal FILE RETRIEVE this subdirectory
9  LEAVE THIS MENU PROGRAM, ERASE SHEET

Enter Number of File to Use      5
                                *****

```

To retrieve this AUT0123 command file, press Alt-A

Figure 2: This macro selects hard disk directories and retrieves files.

```

          I          J          K
-----
4
5
6  "\A"      /FRAUT0123~
7
8  "\0"      {GoTo}E16~{?}~      ' Cursor to E16, accept input.
9              /XIE16=1~/XGJ20~      ' Series of IF statements
10             /XIE16=2~/XGJ22~      ' that cause
11             /XIE16=3~/XGJ24~      ' macro to branch
12             /XIE16=4~/XGJ26~      ' according to number
13             /XIE16=5~/XGJ28~      ' input by
14             /XIE16=6~/XGJ30~      ' the user.
15             /XIE16=7~/XGJ32~      ' Branches are
16             /XIE16=8~/XGJ34~      ' numbered below.
17             /XIE16=9~/XGJ36~      '
18
19
20      1      /FDB:\PERSONAL~/FRbankac~
21
22      2      /FDB:\BUSINESS~/FRcobank~
23
24      3      /FDB:\PERSONAL~/FRinvest~
25
26      4      /FDB:\BUSINESS~/FRsoftwr~
27
28      5      /FDB:\~/FR
29
30      6      /FDB:\PERSONAL~~
31
32      7      /FDB:\BUSINESS~~
33

```

34 8 /FR
35
36 9 /WEY

Macro Choices

(PC Magazine Vol 4 No 22 October 29, 1985 Spreadsheet Clinic)
(from article entitled Printer Setup Files)

In response to the Hard Disk Menu item (Vol 4 No 15 July 23, 1985) it was noted that /XM macro menus can offer no more than eight choices. This is true; however, for the last option in one menu you can offer the user another menu. To let the user scroll through all his choices more freely, you can even make the last item in the last menu point back to the first menu, and the first item in the first menu point to the last menu.

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