

Nine-Times

Documentation

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Nine-Times

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Introduction:

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You should have a basic understanding of OS-9 to fully utilize this magazine and the programs it contains. Just understanding the material in the Getting Started manual that came with OS-9 should be sufficient to get you started.

Startup 512K:

Before you start, you must merge the *stdfonts* and *stdptrs* that are included on the OS-9 master disk in the SYS directory. The reason for this is that the magazine uses a graphic screen and pointer. To do this, you can insert a backup of your OS-9 system master and type the following:

```
OS9:merge /d0/sys/stdfonts /d0/sys/stdptrs <enter>
```

You will also need to load the *RunB*, *SysCall* and *Inkey* modules before starting. These can be found in the CMDS directory of the Basic09/Config disk.

To boot up the magazine, get into any window that is not of the VDG type (the old black on green 32-column type), insert the magazine disk into drive 0, and type:

```
OS9:chd /d0; chx /d0 <enter>
```

Then type:

```
OS9:mag <enter>
```

After a few seconds, you should see the main screen of *Nine-Times*. Note that when you quit the magazine, it will still remain in memory. To restart it, just type:

```
OS9:runb magazine
```

after making sure that your directories are set correctly.

Startup 128K:

To work on a 128K system, all memory is taken by the magazine, and all other processes must be terminated in order for the magazine to run. Unless you have used OS-9 for a while and have a good understanding of how it works,

we suggest that you use the following procedure to insure that you can start it up. (Note that this will also work on a 512K system.)

1. First, you should make a copy of your OS-9 System Master disk. If you are not familiar with this procedure, instructions can be found on pages 3-3 to 3-9 of the Getting Started manual.
2. Next, copy over the following procedures from the Basic09 disk's CMDS directory: *RunB*, *Inkey*, *Syscall*. To do this, use the following procedure:
 - a. One Drive System: Type "**copy /d0/cmds/runb /d0/cmds/runb -s #32k**" after inserting the Basic09 Disk. Follow the prompts, using your backup as the DESTINATION, and the Basic09 disk as the SOURCE. After this is completed, do the same for the *Syscall* and *Inkey* procedures.
 - b. Two Drive System: Insert the Basic09 disk in drive 1 and your backup in drive 0. Then type "**copy /d1/cmds/runb /d0/cmds/runb**". Repeat this for each procedure.
3. Next, merge these into one file by doing the following: insert your backup copy in drive 0. Type "**chd /d0/cmds; merge runb syscall inkey >runb2**". Then type "**del runb syscall inkey; rename runb2 runb; attr runb e**".
4. Finally, you must copy the *mag128k* procedure found on your magazine disk to the backup. This can be done as: 1 drive-"**copy /d0/mag128k /d0/mag128k -s**" or 2 drive-"**copy /d1/mag128k /d0/mag128k**".
5. Now, insert your backup copy into drive 0 and hit reset on the back of the computer. When the OS-9 screen comes up again, hit ENTER for the date, and type "**mag128k**" when the OS9: prompt comes up on the screen. Then follow the instructions given to you. Also, use this disk anytime you want to view any issue of the magazine. Also note that if you use the 128K startup procedure, the baud rate is set to 600 (this is the default for OS-9). If it must be changed, see section 6-103 of OS-9 commands.

When you are finished, you will have to turn off the computer, because there are no longer any processes running when the magazine is exited. You can still use the programs included in the issue normally by rebooting with your regular OS-9 disk.

Usage:

Most control of the magazine is through a joystick or mouse. In case you don't have one, you can use a neat OS-9 provision -- the keyboard mouse. While holding the control (CTRL) key, press CLEAR. Now you can control the pointer with the arrow keys, and you can use F1 as the button. For finer resolution, hold down the SHIFT key while pressing the arrows. You can toggle it off by using CTRL-CLEAR again, and use normal joysticks.

To read a text file, select either Departments, Articles, or Programs from the menu bar at the top of the screen. This will bring up a scroll bar of possible files. Select a file by pressing the joystick button while the pointer is on the requested file, or use --NEXT-- and --PREVIOUS-- to scroll up or down through the files. A bell tone sounds if you try to scroll beyond the beginning

or end of the files. You can abort the current menu by selecting the QUIT bar at the bottom of the screen.

After selecting the file, it will appear on your screen in the text window. You can scroll through the file by using the NEXT and BACK bars at the bottom of the window; a bell tone sounds if you try to go beyond the beginning or end of the file. When you are satisfied, you may choose the QUIT bar which will get you back to the main screen.

Printing Files:

To print one or more files, select the PRINT FILES area on the menu bar, and an option menu will come up on the screen. Select a "Print Which" option, and also click on any margins that you want to change. You can also select any combination of options in the option section. Note that your printer must be capable of receiving the form feed (*decimal 12*) character to use the "FF after each article" option. When you are finished, select the DONE area. If there are any conflicting parameters, the section will flash briefly, and you will then be able to correct them. After that, you have the option of specifying the printing output device. If you want to use the default (*/p*), just hit ENTER. Otherwise type the path in. Note that you may redirect the output to a disk file. It is strongly suggested that you do not write to your original magazine disk. You may also specify on what line of the paper the print head will be on for the first page. This is included for those printers that leave some margin at the top of the paper, so you do not have to make adjustments to the printer margin options. If you must select a specific file or grouping, you can do so after the printer start line prompt. Printing will then begin; when it is finished, you will be returned to the main screen. Note that you should set the printer baud rate with the *Xmode* command before entering *Nine-Times*. However, you could set this from another shell while *Nine-Times* is running.

Installation on a Hard Drive:

To install an issue of the magazine on a hard drive or other high-capacity media, first create a directory to put the issue. Then use the OS-9 *Dsave* utility or other directory copy utility to copy the entire contents of the disk to the directory. If there are two disks (or a double sided disk) inclosed for the month, copy them both to the same directory. To start the magazine, make sure the standard fonts and pointers are merged in, *RunB* is loaded, and you are in a non-VDG window. Change the current data directory to the magazine directory (*chd /h0/magazine/issue4*) and the execution directory to the same directory. Then type "mag" to start the magazine.

Ram Disk Usage:

The magazine disk can be copied to a ram disk before usage to speed file access time if you don't have a hard drive. Only the first disk needs to be copied over, because the second disk always contains the actual programs and is not accessed by the magazine file reader. Follow the hard disk installation procedure to use a ram disk.

Getting to the Programs:

All programs are stored in the CMDS directory in executable form. This directory is located on the second disk (if there is no second disk, it will be on the first.) Any Basic09 programs that require the *RunB* module will state as so in the documentation file. To run these programs, either load in the *RunB* module before using the program, or have it in your current execution directory. To execute these files, type:

OS9:runb program

where "program" is the actual filename. Also, if the documentation states that the program listing is included, it can be found in the TEXT directory.

Required Modules:

To boot the magazine, you must have the following modules either in your *OS9Boot* file or loaded prior to booting the magazine. This only applies to 512K users who want to use their own boot. 128K users following the 128K Startup Method will have the correct modules.

```
OS9p2
IOMan
Init
CC3Go
Clock
RBF
CC3Disk
D0 ----- or other RBF device
SCF
PRINTER --:
P      --+- optional, for printouts
CC3IO
WindInt
Term
W
W1 ----- could use any window
```

Remember that the standard fonts and pointers must be merged with a window and the *RunB*, *Syscall* and *Inkey* modules must be loaded prior to booting the magazine.