

## Introduction

PC-Transfer was written to facilitate the moving of files from TI to MS-DOS/IBM machines. The IBM market in recent years has adopted DS/HD (1.2/1.44 MB) as their standard format. PC-Transfer uses the 360K format offered by the CorComp Disk Controller and the Myarc Floppy Disk Controller. Other formats may work, but no guarantees are made as the MS-DOS world has changed their format as they have upgraded their MS-DOS versions.

## Loading and Using

PC-Transfer loads from Extended basic. The extended basic loader program (LOAD) will determine your computer type (TI-99/4A or Geneve 9640) and controller (Myarc or CorComp, TI not supported) and load the appropriate program.

Once the program has loaded, an introduction screen will be displayed followed by a request for a keypress. At this point, you must designate which drive number is a MS-DOS drive, and which drive is a TI drive.

Following the drive selection, you will be prompted for a CONVERSION filename. This can be left empty to convert a file from IBM to TI or TI to IBM with no modifications or one can use one of the conversion files (with device name). If one uses the following files described in the attached docs then you can selectively modify the file to compensate for different computer types.

At this point, you are ready to select which disk drive you want to catalog. You may catalog an IBM disk in your drive, or you may catalog a TI disk. You may also format an IBM disk on your TI Computer.

When you select either a TI or IBM drive to catalog, the disk will be cataloged. You may mark any or all files by typing the letter "C" for Convert. Once you have selected the files you want to convert from IBM to TI, or TI to IBM, then you must press "E" for Execute to begin the conversion process.

Once at the conversion process, you will be prompted for the appropriate filename on your output filename. Legal TI filenames are 10 characters in length, while legal IBM filenames are 8 characters followed by the period plus 3 more characters for the file extension.

Once you have entered all the filenames, the conversion process will begin. You may press F9 several times to exit the program once all conversions are completed.

The TIFILES conversion utility will convert a file from a PC disk that has a TIFILES header to its proper file format on the TI. This can be very useful as it allows the conversion of TI files downloaded with a PC computer. It will also insert a TIFILES header when moving a file from the TI to the PC. For example, you could use your PC at work to download several TI files from a bulletin board, bring the disk home, and use this utility to put the files on your TI disk. This is also be useful for SysOps running a TI BBS (or a TI section on another BBS) that are based on a PC. Suppose, for example, that the SysOp wanted to place several TI files on the PC-based BBS. Rather than transfer them via serial cable or modem, the files could be moved to a PC disk with this utility, and then simply copied into the download area on the PC.

### Thank You

To Scott Darling for his exhaustive testing of these utilities, and to Peter Hoddie for his suggestions about this package. Thanks also to all the original purchasers of PC-Transfer, who have made this conversion utilities package possible. Thanks, too, for all their patience while this package was completed.

**JP Software**  
2390 El Camino Real, #107  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

## PC-Transfer Utilities

Version 1.0

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### Introduction

PC-Transfer Utilities increases the power of PC-Transfer. It includes three additional conversion utilities. The first utility handles Microsoft Multiplan® SYLK files. The second utility transfers files with a TIFILES header (useful for up/downloading TI files with an PC computer). The third new utility moves any type of PC or TI file without interpreting any of the data. The disk also includes the normal ASCII text converter, so that you can switch back text conversions without having to restart PC-Transfer.

### Using the Utilities

PC-Transfer Utilities disk comes with four files, one for each of the four conversion utilities. These files names are listed below along with a brief description of the conversion service each provides.

DF128	any PC file to DIS/FIX 128 format.
SYLK	Microsoft Multiplan® SYLK file.
TEXT	ASCII files.
TIFILES	files with a TIFILES header

To use one of the conversion utilities, type in its filename (e.g., DSK1.DF128) when PC-Transfer asks for a conversion file name on the initial screen. The utility is loaded and used instead of the default text conversion. Each of the utilities is explained below in greater detail.

#### **DF128**

This utility will convert any PC file to Display/Fixed 128 format. This is the file format used by TI terminal emulator programs to represent a non-TI file format. DIS/FIX 128 files can also be moved to a PC disk using this utility. This utility is very useful for converting GIF and RLE pictures to the TI/9640. It is also possible, using this utility, for any programmer to write a conversion utility (even in Extended BASIC) that converts a PC file to a useful TI file format by having it directly manipulate the DIS/FIX 128 file on the TI disk. The FirstBase conversion utilities operate on this principle - an IBM-style database is first converted to the TI disk using the supplied PC-Transfer utility, then a separate program converts the resultant DIS/FIX 128 file to FirstBase file format.

#### **SYLK**

This utility converts an Internal/Fixed 128 file to a PC file (or vice-versa). This is useful for converting SYLK files, used by many spreadsheet programs, including Microsoft Multiplan® on the TI. Almost every PC spreadsheet program includes an option to import and export SYLK files.

#### **TEXT**

This utility is exactly the same as the routine that comes embedded in PC-Transfer. The only reason you would load this is if you had converted some files using another conversion utilities, and wished to then convert a text file without re-loading PC-Transfer. Refer to the PC-Transfer manual for specifics on ASCII text conversion.

#### **TIFILES**

This utility converts files with a TIFILES header. An explanation of file up/downloading with TI terminal emulator programs is in order. When Paul Charlton wrote the first XMODEM routine on the TI, he invented a special 128-byte header to go at the start of the file, containing information on what file-type the file was, and how much data it contained. The header replicated all essential data that was stored in the file header on disk. As the first several bytes in the header read 'TIFILES' (to indicate that the file is indeed a TI file), the header became known by that name.