Lord DefCo' Guide to programming in QBASIC

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     THANK-YOU,

Lord DefCo

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What is a program?

A program is a series of commands that are designed to perform a certain action. These usually are created using what is called a programming language. These languages translate English style commands into machine language, which is what the computer actually uses. A program could be as simple as:

Open door
Take out milk
Close door

These words tell you how to perform a certain action. In this case, getting the milk. Take the word open, this tells you that you need to open something. This is called a command. The word that follows it is called the object. It works just like Standard English verbs. You can think of a command as a verb for a computer. Computers can accomplish MUCH more complicated programs than a human being.

What is QBASIC anyway?

QBASIC is an acronym for Quick Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. It is a very simple language that you can pick up in a few weeks and master in less than a year on your own. Of all the programming languages, it's commands make the most sense. The commands are taken straight out of a standard dictionary. This language will even correct some errors that you make and has a very helpful Help system. This is how I learned QBASIC, which is also written qbasic or referred to as basic. Basic was one of the first programming languages that was made widely available to the public. It was written for those who wanted to learn FORTRAN, a engineering programming language that is still used today.

Commands:

Print – Will display text enclosed in "" 's on the screen, also displays the value of variables
Rem – Makes any statement after the command appear as a comment (not executed) use comments to
remind you of what a variable holds, why a loop is used ect.
Cls - Statement that clears the screen of all text, graphics and other things.
End – Statement that brings the execution of a program to a stop

Your first program!!!

Enter the following lines of code into a new file:
REM This is my first program
CLS
Print "Hello World"
END

Run the program, does the output look like this:
Hello World
Now, delete the CLS statement and run the program 2 or more times. See why you used the CLS statement.

Advanced project:
In this project, you will use a new command, COLOR. The color command uses numbers to represent colors. By placing the number after the color command, you will change all text written to the screen after that statement to be that color.
Example
REM 15 is bright white
CLS
PRINT "This is color 0"
COLOR 15
Print "This is color 15"
PRIN "See the difference"
COLOR 0
REM ALWAYS set the color back to 0 (default) before exiting the program
END

Your task, is to experiment with the color attributes and find out which color each number represents. Then write a program using all of the commands that you know right now.
Good luck!!!!!!

Contact Information
Well, you are well on your way, I hope that you found this educational, it took me a long time to type all this stuff. Please send copies to your friends, post it on your BBS or place it (gently) on your web site. If you put it on a web site, please tell me. How, you ask? Well I am about to tell you.

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