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Introduction to PL/I-80

Thank you for your interest in PL/I-80. This letter introduces the PL/I-80 programming system, and points out various components included in this package.

A signed copy of your PL/I-80 License is included. Please take time to re-read the terms of the License, since it defines your exact rights and responsibilities in using PL/I-80. In particular, note that your non-commercial license does not allow you to sell Composite Programs which result from linking your PL/I-80 programs with subroutines from the Run-time Library. You can, of course, sell programs which are the direct output from the compiler or assembler, in relocatable object code format. The Linkage Editor and Run-time Library is sold separately (with quantity discounts), for the purpose of inclusion with relocatable object files. As an alternative, a separate Commercial Distribution Addendum to your license is currently under preparation, and will be forwarded to you as soon as possible.

Two diskettes are included in the package. One, marked "Sample Programs," contains most of the examples of the manuals in source form. If you edit these programs, you will notice that the lines generally begin with tab characters rather than spaces. Several more comprehensive examples are also included, so you can get some insight into PL/I-80 language facilities. The other diskette contains the "Licensed Programs." As the label shows, these programs are proprietary and must not be copied for anyone else's use. Anyone using the Licensed Computer running the Licensed Programs must be under your direct supervision to ensure that the License is not violated.

Two additional compiler "switches" have been added to the set described in the Applications Guide and Command Summary: the Q (quick compile) switch disables some non-essential portions of the optimizer which produce only minor improvements in generated code. Use of the Q switch improves overall speed of the third compiler pass by approximately 15%. The W (wait between passes) switch has been added to allow small capacity disk drives to be used with PL/I. In this case, the compiler prints the message

LOAD OVL DISK, TYPE RETURN

at which time, you can replace the default disk with one which contains the next compiler overlay. If you have standard floppy disks, however, you won't need to use this switch.

We've been using PL/I-80 in a wide variety of applications here at Digital Research, and find that is appropriate for all levels of programming, from the novice to the advanced system and application programmer. If you are just getting started, look through the Applications Guide to get an idea how to write PL/I programs. Applications programmers will be interested in the PL/I general purpose I/O interface discussed in this guide, while systems programmers will want to look over the direct CP/M system call structure found in the LINK-80 Operator's Guide. We're sure you will enjoy writing programs in this new microprocessor language, and we look forward to supporting you in your PL/I programming efforts.