

CENTRAL REGION TECHNICAL ATTACHMENT 90-11

OTHER WAYS OF CONFIGURING YOUR ABT PC

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1. Introduction

For the past few years, our ABT computer would always come up with the ABT menu and then SuperWriter after being rebooted. For some forecasters, this was fine; however, there are some disadvantages to this.

- a. To run any other programs, you would first have to exit SuperWriter and then escape from the ABT menu. Next, you would have to change directories before running the other program.
- b. To return to SuperWriter, you would have to do all the steps in reverse. Running one simple program such as a temperature conversion would involve a lot of extra steps.
- c. Also, there are programs that the ABTINT.SYS file may not be compatible with. This file also hogs some of the computer's memory.

The main reason the ABTINT.SYS file is loaded is to enable the requesting of products from AFOS. Since other programs such as HABT have the ability to request products without using ABTINT.SYS, I decided to give everyone the option of bringing the ABT up in any one of four different modes. This way, the forecasters that do not want the ABT changed can continue using it just like in the past, while others can have it set up the way they want it.

In addition, we now have the option of bringing the ABT up using PCSHELL (PC Tools Deluxe, Central Point Software) or DESQview (Quarterdeck) to run SuperWriter plus many other programs. I have found it is much easier and quicker to load SuperWriter, HABT, SRWarn, CONVERT, or our new shareware spell checker (ShareSpell) with just a couple of quick keystrokes.

2. Discussion

Here is what we can do. To change the ABT from one mode to another, we just type CONFIG ABT, CONFIG HABT, CONFIG DV, or CONFIG while at the DOS prompt. This causes appropriate AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files to be copied onto the root directory, after which we just reboot the computer and watch it come up in the desired mode.

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In the ABT mode (CONFIG ABT), the PC will come up as it always has with the ABT menu and SuperWriter.

In the HABT mode (CONFIG HABT), PCSHELL is loaded, allowing you to just hit the letter A for Application programs to obtain a menu like the one below:

```
.....  
.      .  
.  H  Habt      .  
.  W  Srwarn   .  
.  P  Spell Checker .  
.  V  Convert  .  
.  U  Superwriter .  
.  Z  Zcode    .  
.      .  
.....
```

To run any of these programs, simply strike the corresponding letter. When you want to want to run another program in this list, just exit the first program, strike A, and select a new program from the menu. Switching from one application to another only involves a few keystrokes and a couple of seconds.

In addition, there are numerous other PCSHELL utility functions at your finger tips.

The only reason I called this the HABT mode is because you have the option of using HABT in this mode. Some people now use it and then use our shareware SPELL CHECKER to correct any spelling errors. You can even use SuperWriter in this mode; however, products cannot be requested from AFOS. In the ABT mode we cannot run HABT or our new Spell Checker, which I consider to be much better than the one provided with SuperWriter.

The DESQview mode is similar to the HABT mode. The only difference is that your choices will appear from the DESQview menu. With DESQview you have the option of running two or more application programs simultaneously. You can switch back and forth between programs with just a few keystrokes.

On our ABT PC, the data subdirectory has been substituted so the PC thinks it is on the B drive instead of the D:\SW\SW-DATA\ subdirectory.

Finally, there is an option to allow the PC to come up in plain vanilla DOS with no shell or menu. Just type CONFIG and hit ENTER.

With all these modes available, each forecaster who uses the ABT can decide which one he or she prefers. We are not stuck using a single mode just because a few forecasters don't want to experiment.

The following is a copy of our CONFIG.BAT batch file. Since each office has a slightly different arrangement of files on the ABT computer, some modifications will probably be necessary before you can use this batch file on your computer.

CONFIG.BAT:

```
ECHO OFF
IF %1 == ABT GOTO ABT
IF %1 == abt GOTO ABT
IF %1 == HABT GOTO HABT
IF %1 == habt GOTO HABT
IF %1 == DV GOTO DV
IF %1 == dv GOTO DV
CLS
COPY D:\ABT\NORMAL.SYS D:\CONFIG.SYS
COPY D:\DOS\BATCH\NORMAL.BAT D:\AUTOEXEC.BAT
ECHO.
ECHO.
ECHO      Computer has been reconfigured so that it will reboot in
ECHO      a normal MS-DOS mode. There will be no RAM disks and no
ECHO      redirection of any directories.
ECHO.
ECHO      To reconfigure in the ABT, HABT, or DV mode, just type
ECHO      CONFIG ABT -or- CONFIG HABT -or- CONFIG DV.
ECHO.
ECHO      You can now reboot the computer.
ECHO.
ECHO.
GOTO END
:ABT
CLS
COPY D:\ABT\ABT.SYS D:\CONFIG.SYS
COPY D:\DOS\BATCH\ABT.BAT D:\AUTOEXEC.BAT
ECHO.
ECHO.
ECHO.
ECHO      The computer will be configured for the ABT mode once it is
ECHO      rebooted.
ECHO.
ECHO.
GOTO END
:HABT
CLS
COPY D:\ABT\NORMAL.SYS D:\CONFIG.SYS
COPY D:\HABT\HABT.BAT D:\AUTOEXEC.BAT
ECHO.
ECHO.
ECHO.
ECHO      The computer will be configured to come up with HABT once it is
ECHO      rebooted.
```

```
ECHO.  
ECHO.  
ECHO.  
GOTO END  
:DV  
CLS  
COPY D:\ABT\NORMAL.SYS D:\CONFIG.SYS  
COPY D:\DOS\BATCH\WUG.BAT D:\AUTOEXEC.BAT  
ECHO.  
ECHO.  
ECHO.  
ECHO      The computer will be configured to come up with DESQview once it  
ECHO      is rebooted.  
ECHO.  
ECHO.  
ECHO.  
:END
```

Basically, this batch file will replace the CONFIG.SYS and the AUTOEXEC.BAT files with the contents of another file. Both of these files are in the root directory on your hard disk. When the computer is rebooted, these two files determine what mode the computer will come up in. Also, at our office, the hard disk has been configured as a D drive. Most other offices would probably use a C drive for their hard disk.

The first part of this batch file checks to see what letters (if any) followed the word, CONFIG, in your command line. If a match is found, the program flow jumps to the appropriate label in the batch file, copying the desired files into the AUTOEXEC.BAT and the CONFIG.SYS files in the root directory. The actual file names and the subdirectory where these are kept are not important, since each office would probably have their own directory structure and replacement file names for the CONFIG.SYS and the AUTOEXEC.BAT files.

Here are some of these other files used at our office:

ABT.BAT:

```
COMI  
DEDC /1  
MENU ABT  
DEDC /2
```

ABT.SYS:

```
DEVICE=D:\ABT\ABTINT.SYS  
FILES=20
```

NORMAL.BAT:

```
ECHO OFF
PATH=D:\DOS;D:\DOS\BATCH;D:\DOS\PCTOOLS
PROMPT $P$G
ASTCLOCK /R
LIGHT ON
```

NORMAL.SYS:

```
SHELL D:\DOS\COMMAND.COM D:\DOS /P
FILES=20
```

WJG.BAT:

```
ECHO OFF
PATH=D:\DOS;D:\DOS\BATCH;D:\DOS\PCTOOLS
PROMPT $P$G
ASTCLOCK /R
LIGHT ON
SUBST B: D:\SW\SW-DATA
DV
```

(DV is another batch file which brings up DESQview)

Finally the HABT.BAT file looks something like this:

```
ECHO OFF
PATH=D:\DOS;D:\DOS\BATCH;D:\DOS\PCTOOLS
PROMPT $P$G
ASTCLOCK /R
LIGHT ON
SUBST B: D:\SW\SW-DATA
PCSHELL /TR0
```

After all of your replacement batch and CONFIG.SYS files have been created, the CONFIG.BAT file can copy any of these replacement files over your CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files.

After all of the replacement files for the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files have been created, you will need to configure PCSHELL and/or DESQview so that your applications will appear in the menu. Information on how to do this is contained in the PCTOOLS/PCHELL and DESQview manuals for those offices that have these programs.

If you do not have either of these programs, you can just replace the name PCSHELL /TR0 with HABT, and the AUTOEXEC.BAT will bring up HABT. You will not have a menu of programs to choose from, but you can still configure your ABT so it can boot up in different modes.