# INSIDE PC TOOLS

*Tips & techniques for users of PC Tools versions 7 and 8*

## Installing PC Tools 8

I f you're planning on upgrading to PC Tools 8 in the near future, or if you already have, you'll find the installation procedure very user friendly. As always, the PC Tools installation program is full of helpful dialog boxes. Also, if you need more information, detailed online help is only a touch of the [F1] key away. Version 8 even displays a message box that changes several times during the installation, describing its new features as you wait for the files to be copied from the disks.

Even though PC Tools 8 is easy to install, little hints and tips can always make the procedure that much easier. In this article, we'll present a grab bag of information you could find useful as you install the newest version of PC Tools.

### First steps

PC Tools is a utility package full of tools to help you recover in the event of a disaster. However, one disaster it won't help you recover from is the destruction of the original disks. Make working copies of the originals before you install the product. It takes very little time and is definitely worth the peace of mind you get from knowing that the originals are in pristine condition. Once you create the working copies, put the originals in a safe place and use the working copies to install PC Tools.

Since PC Tools relies on the unique volume labels assigned to each of the installation disks in order for it to keep track of which disk to use, you must use the DOS DISKCOPY command to make an exact duplicate. Making working copies of the originals is as easy as inserting Disk 1 in your floppy disk drive and typing

`DISKCOPY A: A: /V`

You then insert a blank disk when prompted

to do so. As you can see in the preceding command line, we've included the /V switch, which adds verification to the copying process. Adding the /V switch means that DISKCOPY compares each track of the target disk with the original track on the source disk to ensure that it copied the track correctly. While this verification slows down the Diskcopy process, it adds an extra measure of security.

You can rest assured, though, that this is the last time you'll ever have to use DOS's DISKCOPY command. You'll no longer have to reinsert the source and target disks several times in order to copy a single disk. The new PC Tools Desktop is able to make complete copies of a disk with a single pass of the source disk. We'll take a closer look at this feature in a future issue, but now let's continue with some installation tips.

When you finish making your working copies, be sure you have one extra floppy disk on hand and place the provided Emergency Disk label on it. During the installation procedure, PC Tools will prompt you to insert this disk; then, it will copy onto the extra disk all your important system information as well as some key PC Tools utilities you can use to recover from a major hard disk calamity. This disk should be the same type as your boot drive. Don't worry about formatting the disk, because the Emergency Disk creation procedure formats disks before copying files.

As we mentioned, this disk must be the same type as your boot drive; it must also be a high-density drive because the emergency disk recovery files occupy at least 1Mb of disk space. However, if it's a low-density disk, the procedure will copy only the most necessary files onto the disk.

The emergency disk creation utility, called EDisk, is now a stand-alone program full of

## Letter from the editors

Welcome to the ninth issue of *Inside PC Tools!* As our journal has evolved, we've covered a lot of territory within the realm of PC Tools. During this time, we've presented hints and tips relevant to users of both PC Tools versions 6 and 7.1. Now that Central Point Software has released version 8, we're faced with some difficult decisions regarding our journal's content.

Version 8 is equipped with more than 100 new features and improvements, making it far superior to both versions 7.1 and 6. Because of this, we feel we need to cover version 8 in detail. We still plan to offer tips and techniques that will benefit users of version 7.1; however, since we've found that very few of you are still using PC Tools 6, we've decided to discontinue version 6 coverage.

We realize that some of you may be thinking about staying with either version 7.1 or version 6, and we want to encourage you strongly to upgrade to version 8. With that in mind, we've been working closely with Central Point Software to provide our readers with an extension to the limited-time upgrade offer. Central Point's regular $69.95 upgrade offer expired November 30, 1992. However, in this issue, you'll find an upgrade card that entitles you to the same upgrade price of $69.95—with an extension until December 31, 1992.

We feel that PC Tools 8, with all its enhancements, is a very robust product, and we recommend that you take advantage of this extension and upgrade to version 8. With *Inside PC Tools* guiding your way, you'll definitely find the transition an easy one.

To help us make *Inside PC Tools* as useful as possible to you while you're making the transition, we invite you to participate in the reader survey on the back page of this issue. By completing the survey and returning it to us, you'll help us help you. We'll scrutinize the returned surveys closely so we can develop articles in which you're the most interested. In order for us to achieve this goal, please take a few moments to photocopy the survey form, fill out the copy, and either mail or FAX it back to us.

Once we receive your survey, you'll automatically be eligible for the drawing to win one of ten *free* one-year renewals to *Inside PC Tools.* In order for you to be eligible for the drawing, we must receive your entry no later than December 31, 1992. The drawing will be held on January 4, 1993.

Jeff Yocom
Editor-in-Chief

Greg Shultz
Assistant Editor

features that allow you to create a new emergency disk anytime your system's configuration changes. We'll cover EDisk and its many features in an upcoming issue.

## Installing version 8 over other versions

PC Tools 8 installs itself over the top of earlier versions of PC Tools. Of course, you'll be warned before this occurs, and you'll have the option to install version 8 in a different directory. However, you can safely install version 8 over your previous PC Tools version because the installation procedure recognizes that you may have data or configuration files you want to keep. To this end, the installation procedure copies any *user-specific* files to a newly created subdirectory called \PCTOOLS\OLDPCT. The files copied to this new subdirectory include your spelling dictionary file, DICT.SPL, and your telephone directory file, PHONE.TEL, as well as any files with the extensions shown in Table A.

## Installation variations

PC Tools 8's installation program provides four installation options to give you the flexibility you need for your particular situation. For example, you'll find special configurations for laptops or for desktop systems that have limited available hard disk space.

The four installation configurations are *full, minimal, laptop,* and *custom* installation. The full installation requires 8.5Mb of hard disk space, which might be more space than you have available. If you're low on hard disk space and are unable to install the entire PC Tools package, you can choose either minimal or custom installation. If you have a laptop computer, you can choose any of the configurations.

In order to help you determine which installation will work best in your situation, let's take a look at what each configuration requires and what it provides. If your desktop computer's hard disk doesn't have 8.5Mb to spare for the full installation, you may decide to go with the minimal installation. If you do, your PC Tools configuration will require 4.4Mb of disk space and consist of the programs shown in Table B along with their accompanying support files.

| Extension | Type |
|---|---|
| .CFG | PC Tools application configuration files |
| .SET | CPBackup setup files |
| .PRO | Desktop Macro files |
| .SCR | Telecommunications scripts |
| .DBF<br>.FOR<br>.REC | Desktop Database files |
| .TM | Scheduler files |
| .BAK<br>.TXT<br>.SAV | Other common data files |

### PC Tools programs

| | |
|---|---|
| Build Emergency Disk | Menus |
| Central Point Anti-Virus | Mirror |
| Central Point Backup | PC Config |
| Compress | PC Format |
| Data Monitor | PC Tools Desktop |
| DiskFix | PC-Cache |
| DriveMap | Program Scheduler |
| File Viewer | RAMBoost |
| FileFind | System Information |
| Installation | Undelete |

If you have a laptop computer and select the laptop installation, your PC Tools configuration will require 5.9Mb of disk space and consist of the programs shown in Table B plus those shown in Table C along with each program's support files.

(When installing PC Tools on a laptop computer with an LCD (Liquid Crystal Display) monitor, use the PC Tools /LCD video parameter. Doing so will make the installation procedure use a color setting that's easier to read on an LCD monitor. For example, use the command line INSTALL /LCD.)

### PC Tools programs

Central Point Commute

Desktop Accessories (minus Itlfax)

If neither of those configurations contains the programs you feel you need, or the configurations include some programs you find are unnecessary, you can choose the custom installation option. Selecting custom installation brings up the *Select tools to install* dialog box shown in Figure A.

As you can see, you can choose which programs you want to include in your custom configuration. As you scroll through the list and select and deselect programs, PC Tools displays the amount of disk space required for the programs you've selected. In addition, it monitors the amount of hard disk space that will remain if you proceed with the current selections. The custom installation procedure will even sound a warning beep if you don't leave an acceptable amount of unused space on your hard disk for data files.
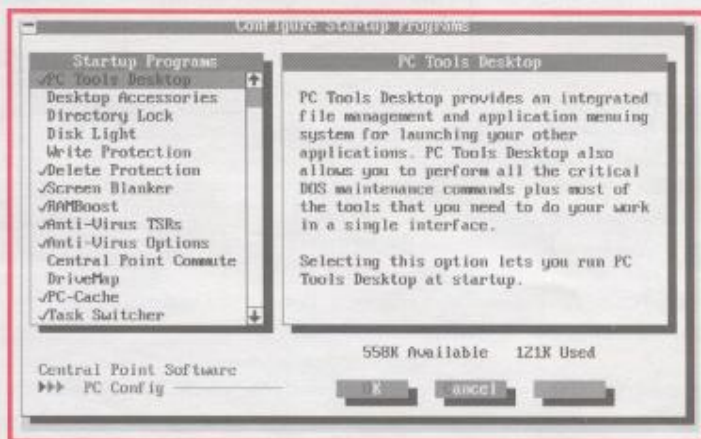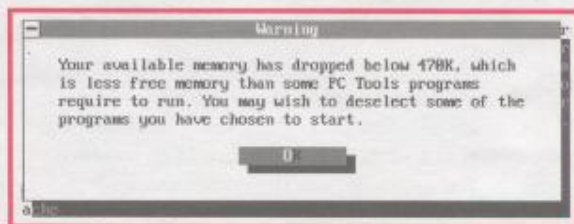
Once you're satisfied with your choices, select OK. The installation procedure will then copy the selected programs to the hard disk.

## Configuring startup programs

When the installation procedure has copied all programs to the hard disk, you'll have the opportunity to specify which PC Tools programs and Terminate and Stay Resident (TSR) programs you want to load as the computer boots up. For example, you might load the Anti-Virus and Scheduler TSRs, initiate the RAMBoost utility, and specify whether you want the PC Tools Desktop to load when the computer finishes booting up. You select these options from the Configure Startup Programs dialog box shown in Figure B.

As you make selections in the Configure Startup Programs dialog box, PC Tools keeps you informed of how much memory the selected programs require in the portion of the dialog box above the three command buttons. This estimate doesn't take into account the ability of RAMBoost and a memory manager such as EMM386 or QEMM to load programs into the Upper Memory Blocks (UMBs). Therefore, you may actually have more memory available than is shown in the dialog box's estimate. Once you exceed a certain amount of memory, the installation procedure will alert you by popping up the Warning dialog box shown in Figure C.

Since most PC Tools TSRs are automatically loaded into upper memory and RAMBoost takes care of some others, go ahead and select what you think you'll need and

then let RAMBoost go to work. Once RAM-Boost has completed its analysis, use the Memory Information utility MI.EXE to see how these programs use memory.

## Windows

As we mentioned in our initial review of version 8 in last month's issue, the Windows versions of the PC Tools programs included in version 7.1 (CP Launcher, CP Backup, and Undelete) haven't been included in version 8. However, new Windows versions of both CP Scheduler and TSR Manager are designed to let you schedule events and allow PC Tools 8's TSRs to communicate with you through Windows.

If you were using version 7.1 and Windows, your Windows PC Tools group will be updated with new PIF files for the new versions of the PC Tools DOS programs. The Windows versions of CP Backup, CP Launcher, and Undelete that came with PC Tools 7.1 are left intact in the PC Tools group and are still operational.

## Conclusion

Installing PC Tools 8 is easy, thanks to the many dialog boxes that help guide you through the process. In this article we've provided you with additional information that will help you get up and running quickly with the newest version of PC Tools. ∎

# Special considerations for PC Tools 8's RAMBoost memory loader

One of most extraordinary utilities in the new PC Tools 8 package is RAMBoost, a UMB (Upper Memory Block) memory loader that works in conjunction with a number of memory managers. RAMBoost's objective in the memory-management scheme is to free as much conventional memory as possible by placing device drivers, Terminate and Stay Resident (TSR) programs, and DOS tables into the upper memory made available by a memory manger and then optimizing this memory to get the best fit for each occupant.

While RAMBoost is compatible with a number of memory managers, you should be aware of some special considerations before you install and use it with your memory-management software. In this article, we'll supplement the installation tips presented in "Installing PC Tools 8," on page 1, with some tips on installing RAMBoost with three popular memory managers—DOS 5's EMM386, Quarterdeck's QEMM386, and Qualitas' 386MAX.

## EMM386

If RAMBoost detects no other memory-management software but finds DOS 5's EMM386, RAMBoost will install and configure EMM386 with the proper include and exclude statements. But first, you must remove EMM386 from your CONFIG.SYS file and from memory before you begin the PC Tools 8 installation. If you don't do this,

### Configuring after the fact

If you've already installed PC Tools 8 but didn't remove the EMM386 line from your CONFIG.SYS file before the installation as we recommend, you can still have RAMBoost configure EMM386. To do so, remove both the line that loads EMM386 from your CONFIG.SYS file as well as the line that loads RAMBoost. Then, reboot your system.

When your system comes back up, run the PC Tools Desktop and select Startup Programs from the pulldown Configure menu. Select RAMBoost from the list and then select OK. RAMBoost will re-install both EMM386 and itself, reboot the system, and then enter its learn mode and configure EMM386.