

Appendix C

Operating System calls

The computer's Operating System is a program, stored in read-only memory, which runs continually, sorting out what goes where and when. Some parts of the Operating System can be accessed from BASIC, and these instructions all begin with an asterisk. When executing BASIC, the computer will pass these instructions straight to the Operating System.

Here is a list of available commands:

*CAT	Catalogues all file names on cassette, and displays them on the screen. Can be shortened to *.
*SAVE	Saves a section of memory onto tape. *SAVE "File" 1000 10FF 102A will save a page of memory, called File, from address &1000 to &10FF, and an execution address (for use by *RUN) of 102A. If the execution address is omitted, it is assumed to be equal to the start address.
*RUN	Loads and runs a program stored by *SAVE. *RUN "File" will load and run the example given in *SAVE above.
*LOAD	Loads a file and stores it in memory at a specified address. *LOAD "Game" 2000 will load from tape a file called Game, and store this at location &2000.
*OPT	Determines the computer's reaction to errors during cassette operations.
*OPT1,X	Controls the error messages given.
X = 0	Gives no messages.
X = 1	Gives short messages (as normal).
X = 2	Gives long messages, including load and execution addresses.
*OPT2,X	Controls the computer's action.
X = 0	Lets the computer ignore all errors, and carry on regardless. Messages can still be given.
X = 1	The computer asks you to try again by rewinding the tape (as normal).
X = 2	The computer aborts the operation.

- *OPT3,X** Sets the inter-block gap - the time delay between each page of memory stored on the tape. X determines the gap in tenths of a second. This only applies to PRINT# and BPUT#. The gap on SAVE is fixed at 0.6 seconds.
- *OPT** On its own sets all the values to normal.
- *SPOOL** Used for saving a program listing or results (as long as they are ASCII characters) to cassette or disc as a text file. Thus ***SPOOL FRED** opens a file called FRED on either tape or disc. Whatever characters appear on the screen after that (e.g. a program listing called up by LIST, or one you enter on the keyboard) will be saved to FRED as a text file. To close the file, type ***SPOOL ϕ RETURN** at the end.
- *EXEC** Loads a file from tape, as input rather than as a program. Used for loading a file which has been ***SPOOLed**.
- *MOTOR** Used to turn the cassette motor relay on or off. ***MOTOR0** for off, ***MOTOR1** for on.
- *KEY** Programs a user-definable function key.
- *FX** A family of Operating System commands which are described in Appendix D.
- *HELP** Gives version numbers of current software.