

Microsoft® GW-BASIC®
User's Guide and
User's Reference

Microsoft®

Contents

1	Welcome to GW-BASIC	1
1.1	System Requirements	3
1.2	Preliminaries	3
1.3	Notational Conventions	3
1.4	Organization of This Manual	4
1.5	Bibliography	5
2	Getting Started With GW-BASIC	7
2.1	Loading GW-BASIC	9
2.2	Modes of Operation	9
2.3	The GW-BASIC Command Line Format	10
2.4	GW-BASIC Statements, Functions, Commands, and Variables	14
2.5	Line Format	16
2.6	Returning to MS-DOS	18
3	Reviewing and Practicing GW-BASIC	19
3.1	Example for the Direct Mode	21
3.2	Examples for the Indirect Mode	22
3.3	Function Keys	24
3.4	Editing Lines	24
3.5	Saving Your Program File	25
4	The GW-BASIC Screen Editor	27
4.1	Editing Lines in New Files	29
4.2	Editing Lines in Saved Files	29
4.3	Special Keys	30
4.4	Function Keys	33

Contents

5	Creating and Using Files	35
5.1	Program File Commands	37
5.2	Data Files	38
5.3	Random Access Files	41
6	Constants, Variables, Expressions and Operators	47
6.1	Constants	49
6.2	Variables	51
6.3	Type Conversion	54
6.4	Expressions and Operators	56
A	Error Codes and Messages	65
B	Mathematical Functions	73
C	ASCII Character Codes	75
D	Assembly Language (Machine Code) Subroutines	77
D.1	Memory Allocation	77
D.2	CALL Statement	78
D.3	USR Function Calls	82
D.4	Programs That Call Assembly Language Programs	85
E	Converting BASIC Programs to GW-BASIC	89
E.1	String Dimensions	89
E.2	Multiple Assignments	90
E.3	Multiple Statements	90
E.4	MAT Functions	90
E.5	FOR-NEXT Loops	91

F	Communications	93
F.1	Opening Communications Files	93
F.2	Communications I/O	93
F.3	The COM I/O Functions	94
F.4	Possible Errors:	94
F.5	The INPUT\$ Function	95
F.6	The TTY Sample Program	97
F.7	Notes on the TTY Sample Program	98
G	Hexadecimal Equivalents	101
H	Key Scan Codes	105
I	Characters Recognized by GW-BASIC	107
	Glossary	109