
Screen and Format Commands

The Norton Editor has nine screen and format commands, all activated by pressing the lead-in key F5, followed by one of the letters L, W, F, T, I, C, D, S or K.

Three of the commands—L (*line width*), W (*word-wrap*), and F (*format paragraph*)—primarily concern the use of the Norton Editor for writing text rather than programs. Three others—T (*tab width*), I (*indentation*), and K (*key define*, Tab and Ins key)—are important for composing both programs and text. C (*cursor type*) and D (*display color*) affect the appearance of the screen. S (*save Editor settings*) is used to make custom copies of the Editor.

Line Width

F5 L (*line width*)—Sets the target width of the line, as used by the *format paragraph* command (F5 F) and the automatic word-wrap feature (F5 W). The Editor's standard default line width is 65. You can preserve your own preferred default line width using the *save Editor settings* (F5 S) command. The current line width setting is shown on the F2 status screen. When word-wrap is on, it is also shown on the status line at the bottom of the editing screen.

Word Wrap

F5 W (*word-wrap*)—Toggles the automatic word-wrap feature on and off. When automatic word-wrap is on, the Editor automatically starts a new line when a new word is started beyond the current line width setting. Usually it is best to have word-wrap off when writing programs and on when writing text. Even if word-wrap is off you may still use the *format paragraph* (F5 F) command to adjust the lines in a paragraph. The Editor's standard default is word-wrap off; you can preserve your own preferred wrap setting using the *save Editor settings* (F5 S) command. The current word-wrap setting is shown on the status line at the bottom of the editing screen; if it's on, the line length is shown on the status line.

Format Paragraph

F5 F (*format paragraph*)—Adjusts the lines in a paragraph to fit within the current line width setting. Formatting starts with the line the cursor is on and proceeds until one of these four indications of the end of the paragraph is found: a blank line, any line beginning with a period, a backslash (\), or a form-feed character (Ctrl-L). After formatting a paragraph, the cursor is positioned at the beginning of the next paragraph, which makes it easy to format paragraph after paragraph. The current line-length setting used by the *format* command is shown on the F2 status screen.

Tab Width

F5 T (*tab width setting*)—Sets the tab width setting. The standard default is 8. When you work with structured programming languages, you may find it useful to set the tab width to the program indentation that you prefer (such as 2 spaces or 4). You can preserve your own preferred tab width using the *save Editor settings* (F5 S) command. The current tab width setting is shown on the F2 status screen.

- Auto Indent*** F5 I (*indentation*)—Toggles the automatic indentation feature on and off. When auto indentation is active, the Editor indents each new line with tabs or spaces to match the previous line. When auto indentation is on, you can conveniently indent structured programs using the tab settings. Pressing the Tab key at the beginning of a line increases the indentation one level and pressing the Backspace key decreases the indentation level. (You can set the tab width to the number of indentation spaces that you prefer with the F5 T command.) You can preserve the auto indentation setting using the *save Editor settings* (F5 S) command. The auto indentation setting is shown on the status line at the bottom of the editing screen.
- Cursor Type*** F5 C (*cursor type*)—Sets the type of cursor that is displayed. Repeating the F5 C command cycles through the cursor choices, four for monochrome monitors and three for color/graphics displays: a solid reverse-video block (the standard default), blinking underscore (the normal DOS cursor), blinking block (or full blinking cursor) and, for the monochrome adapter only, a solid underscore. You can preserve your own preferred cursor type using the *save Editor settings* (F5 S) command. If you use a mouse with the Norton Editor, see the remarks concerning the cursor in the section on Mouse Support, page 34.
- Screen Color*** F5 D (*display color*)—Sets the display colors used. Repeating the F5 D command cycles through a choice of eight color patterns for use with color monitors. You can preserve your own preferred color choice using the *save Editor settings* (F5 S) command. This setting is ignored when using the monochrome display adapter.
- Key Definitions*** F5 K (*key definitions*)—Redefines the operation of the Ins (Insert) and Tab keys. Executing this command allows you to select from one of three modes of operation for the Tab key, and from one of two ways to enter insert mode.

Pressing the Tab key within the F5 K command cycles through the three ways of defining Tab key operation. The default is "Tab character inserted." In this mode, pressing the Tab key inserts a tab character, thus causing the cursor to be positioned at the next tab stop. The second mode, "Space characters inserted," is very similar to the first mode, except that instead of inserting a single tab character, the Norton Editor inserts the appropriate number of spaces; in other words, this mode expands tabs to spaces. In the third mode, "Cursor positioned at next tab stop," the cursor will move to the next tab stop, but neither spaces nor tabs will be inserted until the cursor reaches the end of the line. Once the cursor reaches the end of the line, pressing the Tab key causes spaces to be inserted up to the next tab stop.

When a file is saved with the Tab key set to "Space characters inserted" or "Cursor positioned at next tab stop," all tab characters are changed to the appropriate number of spaces. This can be a convenient way to convert a file using tabs into one using spaces.

After the desired tab mode is selected, executing the F5 S (*save Editor*) command makes the new tab setting the default.

The Norton Editor gives you two different ways of using the Ins key: as an absolute "enter Insert mode" command (the default), or as the more conventional "toggle between insert and replace modes." In the first mode, press F6 Ins to enter replace mode; then press Ins alone to return to insert mode. You can change this with the F5 K command to reconfigure the Ins key to a toggle that switches between insert and replace mode: in this mode, press Ins to enter insert mode, and press it again to enter replace mode. Experiment with each configuration to see which you like best. On some keyboards where it's easy to hit the Ins key by mistake (the Enhanced keyboard for the AT and the PS/2, for example), you may find that you enter replace mode accidentally when the Ins key is configured as a toggle. In any case, you can customize the Editor to suit your own preference.

Save Settings

F5 S (*save Editor settings*)—Writes a copy of the Editor to disk with the current settings as program defaults. This command allows you to change the Editor's default settings or to have several copies of the Editor, each with its own default settings, making it easy to use the Norton Editor for different purposes. You may give the program any filename; the Editor automatically provides the filename extension COM. NE is the standard filename for the Editor. Eleven program settings are preserved as new defaults: the cursor type, the display color, the tab width, the line length, the printing left margin and page length, the word-wrap and auto indentation toggles, the option specifying the display adapter (if given), and the definitions of the Tab and Ins keys.