

General Information

Important Features

Here is general information about the Norton Editor to help you understand its features, how its commands are organized, and some of its underlying philosophy.

The Norton Editor uses all available memory so that none of your computer's resources go to waste. Typically, on a PC with 640K of memory, the Editor can hold well over 500K of file data in memory. Regardless of how much memory is available, the Norton Editor can edit files of any size, no matter how large. The Editor can also handle unusually long lines, up to nearly 64K in length. You'll find that the Norton Editor places almost *no limits* on the work it can do.

The Norton Editor has many features that are particularly useful for writing programs. Among them are the compressed display mode (activated with F6 C), and automatic indentation (F5 I).

The Norton Editor also provides many features that make it convenient for word processing. Among the word-oriented features are cursor movement by word, word-delete in either direction, automatic word-wrap, and automatic paragraph reformatting.

The Norton Editor gives you access to DOS commands through a command processor feature. You can perform any DOS command and run any program using this feature.

The Norton Editor can be used with or without a mouse.

The Norton Editor can simultaneously edit two files, in separate editing windows, and move data between them.

The Norton Editor can be easily configured and saved. You can make as many customized versions of the Editor as you wish, each configured as you want it.

Shift Key Notation

Throughout this manual, Alt-X indicates a key combination formed by holding down the Alt key and pressing a letter key. Ctrl-X indicates a key combination formed by holding down the Ctrl key and pressing a letter key.

Shift Key Use

The Norton Editor uses the Ctrl and Alt keys in a consistent manner. Each of these shift keys acts in a specific *direction*. The rule is simple:

Ctrl works to the *left* or *up*, toward the *top* of the file.

Alt works to the *right* or *down*, toward the *bottom* of the file.

The rule is easy to remember, because it corresponds to the positions of these keys on the standard keyboard: Ctrl is above Alt, so Ctrl goes up and Alt goes down.

Among the examples of how these two shift keys are used are the two word-deleting commands, Ctrl-W and Alt-W. Ctrl-W deletes the word to the left of cursor; Alt-W deletes the word to the right.

Command Structure

The Editor's command structure is primarily based on the use of *lead-in* keys: a function key (F3 - F7) followed by a letter key. The function key *leads in* to the command. When the function key has been pressed, a brief context-sensitive help line appears on the screen's status line. You will find this command structure quick and easy to use once you're acquainted with it.

Here is a quick summary of the use of the function keys:

F1	help screens
F2	status display screen
F3	lead-in key for file and disk commands
F4	lead-in key for block commands
F5	lead-in key for screen and format commands
F6	lead-in key for miscellaneous commands
F7	lead-in key for printer commands
F8	reserved for future use
F9	DOS command processor
F10	reserved for future use

Backup File Names

There are also a few commands that are based on the Alt and Ctrl shift keys.

The Norton Editor has a special and useful way of dealing with backup files. As do many editors, the Norton Editor saves the existing file as the backup file, renaming it with the same name but a different extension. However, the Norton Editor uses a renaming scheme that preserves most of the original filename extension and also allows you to edit a backup file. Instead of giving the former file the filename extension of .BAK, the Norton Editor shifts the extension one character and adds the character "~" at the beginning of the extension. For example, if we are working with a file named SOURCE.ASM, after an editing session the original file will be named SOURCE.~AS. If we edit that backup file, the original file becomes SOURCE.~~A.

During its operation, the Norton Editor uses a temporary file with \$ as the first character of its filename extension. The rest of the temporary file's name is the same as the name of the backup file. You should be aware of this filename, so that you do not unintentionally delete it during the editing session.