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## Starting the Norton Editor

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The Norton Editor can be started in several different ways to match your preference. There are four parameters that you can optionally specify when you start the editor:

NE *[start] [inputfile] [outputfile] [/options]*

### ***start***

The first parameter is used to have the Editor start operation with a jump to a given line number in the input file. The *start* parameter is specified with a + sign followed by the line number, for example:

NE +100 INFILE.

This feature is particularly useful when your compiler has reported an error at a particular line number in the program source. Using the *start* parameter, you can immediately skip to that part of the file. Ordinarily, when the Editor begins it displays a starting message and pauses, waiting for a keystroke. However, when you use the *start* parameter, the Editor goes directly into edit mode. You can also use this feature to skip the Norton Editor's opening message. Just specify the *start* parameter as + without a line number, and the Editor will bypass its startup screen and jump right into edit mode.

### ***inputfile***

The second parameter, *inputfile*, is the one most commonly used. If you do not provide the name of an input file in the command line, the Editor prompts you for one. If *inputfile* already exists, the Editor reads it; otherwise, the Editor creates a new file with that name.

***outfile***

The third parameter, *outfile*, is used only when you wish the Editor to use a different name for the output file. If you do not specify a separate output file, the editor uses the input filename for the output filename. (As you'll see later, you can switch to another output filename while you are editing; see the F3 C command.) The Norton Editor fully supports subdirectories, so you can include drive and path names as part of the file specifications.

***/options***

The final parameter, */options*, generally won't have to be specified. This parameter lets you specify special handling for video display adapters that show "snow" when the screen is being rewritten. The IBM color display, when being driven by the IBM color graphics adapter, is the typical example of a display that "snows" with most programs.

One of three arguments may be specified for this parameter: /DA, automatically adjust to display; /DB, never "desnow"; and /DC, always "desnow." /DA is the default, meaning that when this option is omitted, the Norton Editor will attempt to automatically accommodate itself to the type of display you are using. This option is saved with the F5 S command (*save editor*) and needn't be specified after that unless you change displays.

In a very few special cases, you will want to specify the /DB or /DC options. In particular, if you are using a 3270 PC, a Sigma 400 or IBM Professional Graphics display adapter, the Sharp 7000 or certain other LCD display machines, always use the /DB option (*never desnow*). You should also specify this option if your computer "locks up" when you run the Norton Editor.

In some cases, the Editor will perform desnowing when it is not needed. If you think this is occurring, using the /DB flag will let the Editor run faster and permit type-ahead.