Chapter 1 Entering and Exiting NCSA PC Show

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This chapter provides a brief discussion of the commands used to begin NCSA PC Show, command line parameters which enable special display options, and methods of exiting the program.

Starting PC Show

To simply display an HDF file on an EGA monitor, enter a command of the form:

```
C:\ > pcshow filename
```

Then press **ENTER** and the image(s) in the HDF file will appear on the monitor.

To display a binary raster image, you must specify additional command line parameters. Table 1.1 lists the additional parameters and their functions. The command to display a binary raster image on the EGA monitor takes the following form:

```
C:\ > pcshow -b xdim ydim -m palettefile filename
```

where **xdim** and **ydim** are the dimensions of the image in pixels, **palettename** is the name of the palette you wish to have the image shown with, and **filename** is the name of the file containing the list of image files to be displayed. It is important to include the parameters when using binary files; otherwise, the screen will remain black and no image may be viewed.

These commands are sufficient to run PC Show using an EGA monitor. Special display options become available when additional command line parameters are specified. Chapters 2 and 3 discuss these options. Table 1.1 below lists the optional parameters.

Table 1.1 Command Line Parameters

Parameter	Type	Function
-v	Hardware	Specifies VGA video controller card.
-e	Hardware	Specifies EGA video controller card (Default Value).
-9	Hardware	Specifies NO9 video controller card.

Table 1.1 Command Line Parameters (continued)

Parameter	Type	Function
-b *xdim ydim*	File Format	Specifies a list of binary file images contained in the parameter. (All the binary files must have x and y dimensions identical to those given in this command line.)
-m *palettefile*	File Format	Specifies the name of the palette file to be used with binary files.
-h	File Format	Indicates that the images are stored in HDF format files.
-c	Screen Location	Centers the image on the screen.
-p *xloc yloc*	Screen Location	Labels an x, y coordinate on the screen for the upper-left hand corner of the image.
-a	Miscellaneous	Specifies that the HDF file of the images or the binary files in the list are to be shown as an animation, one image after another until all the images have been displayed.
-s	Miscellaneous	Specifies that the filename parameter for binary files is actually the filename of the image, rather than the name for a file containing a list of the image filenames.

Examples of Starting PC Show

Suppose you have a list of binary images of the dimensions 256 by 320 in a file named image.lst. In order to display the images using the palette test.pal and centering them on a VGA monitor screen, you would enter the command:

```
C:\ > pcshow –b 256 320 –v –c –m test.pal image.lst
```

In order to display only a single binary file, you need to use the **–s** parameter. For example, if you wish to display on a NO9 monitor a single binary file named image.pic of the dimensions 320 by 512 with the palette test.pal, you would enter:

```
C:\ > pcshow –s –9 –m test.pal –b 320 512 image.pic
```

If an animation is to be depicted, then the filename parameter must be a file containing the image names or an HDF file. Also, all the images to be animated must be of the same dimensions; otherwise, they will be distorted upon display. To display an animation of a binary sequence of images contained in the file named image.lst, you would enter:

```
C:\ > pcshow -a -v -m pic.pal -b 320 320 image.lst
```

Exiting PC Show

To exit the program, type **q** while the image is displayed on the screen. The program displays the next image in the HDF file or the next image on the list of binary images. If the current image is the last or only image, the program returns to DOS.

If you type **q** after viewing the final image and are not returned to DOS, press **CONTROL-C** to exit the program. If CONTROL-C does not exit the program, re-boot the computer. Please use the Bugs and Suggestions report form at the back of this manual to report any problems to NCSA, in order that they may be remedied in future releases of NCSA PC Show.