

# geoSHELL

Version 2.2

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manual addendum

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This manual is intended to be used in conjunction with the V2.0 manual and as such, all copyright and trademark notices listed in the V2.0 manual apply to this one.

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'hotkey' at any time to add another definition to the existing ones. Just use savekeys afterwards. 'hotkey' will search for geoSHELL, whereas 'savekeys' expects it to be on the currently active drive.

- \* Use the 'load' command when you need to have a transient command in memory but are not really ready to use the desired command. This allows you to change disks or partitions before using the command.
- \* In the startup file that is on your boot disk, be sure to use 'onboot' and 'always' to identify the commands you wish to execute only during the initial bootup. geoSHELL does not require that you use startup files. They can be a very powerful addition to your system, however. Also, only the currently active drive is searched for a startup file when geoSHELL loads, unlike 'exec' files which can be on any drive including the path partition.
- \* If you have a CMD device with partitions, take advantage of the 'path' command. With this feature, only one copy of geoSHELL need be on your entire system.
- \* You are allowed to rename any external transient command that resides on disk. Resident and internal transient commands cannot be renamed. Also only resident commands may be abbreviated with the first three or more characters.
- \* Use the 'run' command to do a quicker search for applications or desk accessories. You can run them without the run command but geoSHELL always checks first for a command and then looks for an application or other file with the desired name. You cannot 'run' a geoSHELL command. By the same token, you can use wildcards to bypass the search for a geoSHELL command. geoSHELL does not allow the use of wildcards in its commands, so when it sees a wildcard, it automatically assumes you wish to load and run a file.

## INTRODUCTION TO geoSHELL V2.2

This manual is intended to accompany the existing V2.0 manual for geoSHELL. It provides all the information needed to familiarize yourself with the changes and updates to geoSHELL with this new version.

If you are using geoSHELL for the first time, be sure to study the V2.0 manual and then read through this addendum to learn of the differences you will need to know. If you are receiving this as an upgrade to V2.0, then you will find that geoSHELL basically works the same now as it did with V2.0, except for a few of its functions. Some alterations were needed in order to make geoSHELL as powerful as it is.

Perhaps the most important thing to know is that V2.0 and V2.2 are 'not' compatible with each other. This is important. Before running V2.2 on your system, be sure to delete all copies of V2.0 and all related files. Then copy geoSHELL and its new files to your system. What would happen is that when geoSHELL looks for a command, it will search for the geoSHELL file, and if it finds the command contained within, it will load and execute the command. In order to make V2.2 work in certain ways, it meant that certain changes had to be made. This created many incompatibility problems. But as long as you use V2.2 exclusively, which you really should, you won't have any problems. Be sure to replace all of the getshell files also.

An extensive amount of support has been added in V2.2 to better work with native partitions while running under the gateWay from CMD. The path command works as it should now and allows you to have geoSHELL residing in just one native partition's root directory. As long as you place 'getshell' in the subdirectories and other partitions that you intend to work out of, you will always return to geoSHELL when exiting any application. And even without getshell in your subdirectories, you have full access to geoSHELL and its commands while geoSHELL is on the screen. Be sure to read about the 'path' command in the original manual and in this addendum.

Another improvement when using native partitions is that geoSHELL keeps track of the subdirectory you were last in when you change partitions. You do not have to start out at the root directory each time you enter a new partition.

geoSHELL does a better job of loading and running certain BASIC programs now. It will even properly load some programs that the DeskTop fails to run.

geoSHELL V2.2 includes some new commands that were not included with V2.0. Some of the commands in V2.0 were also slightly changed. These are all outlined here. In all, geoSHELL V2.2 includes several months worth of fixes, improvements and enhancements, that I cannot list them all here, much less remember all of them. Most of the improvements are to the basic operation of the system and are really of no concern to the user.

Another welcome addition to the program disk can be found on side 2. This side of the disk includes a number of sample startup and exec files. Be sure to print out the file called 'side 2 docs'. Or instead of printing it, you may use the 'type' command to view the file on the screen. This doc file will explain the function of each sample file and how to use them. Use these files as examples in creating your own startup or exec files.

You will find this to be a very matured version of the original release. I hope you enjoy the work I have created here.

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UP-ARROW (^), and is entered by pressing the key to the left of the RESTORE key. This terminator is needed with any command that could vary in length. A command that expects a filename could vary in length since a filename can be from 1 to 16 characters. If you wish to follow a variable length command with another on the same line or in a startup or exec file, you must end the command with the UP-ARROW terminator. The only time a different terminator character is used is when defining a function key. This is the CMDR UP-ARROW character. The reason is that a variable length command plus another can be included within a function key definition. So a different terminator is needed. The terminators are not needed if there are no more commands on the line you are typing. In a startup or exec file, the entire page is treated as one line and so remember not to think of each line as a separate line.

\* Use capital letters when sending certain wedge commands to your drives. Since GEOS uses true ASCII characters, a capital letter is the same as a lower-case PETASCII character. The drives expect lower-case PETASCII characters for drive commands. These commands are ones such as S for scratch, R for rename and N for new, or when formatting a disk. Some of the wedge commands are trapped by geoSHELL and converted for you. These would be the ones that you are likely to use the most. geoSHELL lets you use upper or lower case for the following wedge commands:

@cp or @CP  
@cd or @CD  
@p or @P  
@\$=p or @\$=P

All other commands must be upper-case or the drive will report an error. Also, be sure to end a wedge command with an UP-ARROW if you enter another command following it. The '@p' command is the only one that does not need an UP-ARROW since it does not vary in length.

Example: @p type filename^ @p

This example would send screen output to the printer and print the file that is specified and then toggle the printer off.

\* If you make a drastic error in a startup file and are causing problems, hold down the 'O' key when geoSHELL is loading and the startup file will be ignored.

\* When defining new hotkeys, if the hotkey combination already exists, it will be replaced by the new one. Also, go ahead and use the command over and over until you have defined all the hotkeys you wish. Then use the savekeys command immediately to avoid losing the definitions that are in memory. You can use the savekeys command repeatedly on different disks or partitions if you use more than one copy of geoSHELL. You can use

## THINGS TO REMEMBER

Here is a list of things that you need to remember when using geoSHELL. Most of these have always been important, even with V2.0, but some pertain to just this new version.

- \* Delete all copies of geoSHELL V2.0 from the disks that you use. With V2.2, there is no need to use V2.0 anymore. The two systems are not fully compatible with each other and will only cause you problems.
- \* When using the commands that 'learn' creates for a CMD device, always select a partition once the drive is installed to get GEOS and the drive's DOS working with the same partition. Always select the starting partitions in your boot startup file also, even when CONFIGURE sets up the drives for you.
- \* If you boot up without exiting to the DeskTop, use the 'install' command in your boot startup file to select your printer driver and also to install your input driver.
- \* Put 'getshell' in the work disks and partitions that you use the most. It is important to have getshell available when exiting an application. Let getshell load and run geoSHELL for you. But remember that 'getshell' is not active unless you run it first. If placed ahead of geoSHELL on your boot disk, it will be activated automatically. Whenever you load geoSHELL from the DeskTop, double-click on getshell to load geoSHELL.
- \* fcopy will delete a file on the destination drive if it has the same name of the file you are copying. Remember this unless you intend to overwrite the file anyway. In it's duplicate mode, it will not delete a file of the same name.
- \* When loading and running an application from within a startup or exec file, you will exit geoSHELL and enter the application at that point. Anything following the command to run the application will be ignored. This also applies when typing multiple commands from the keyboard. However, desk accessories can be run from a startup or exec file since geoSHELL stays in memory when DA's are run. Also, if another startup or exec file is called from within a startup or exec file, any commands from this point on in the existing file will be ignored. The desired startup or exec file will be loaded into memory and any commands contained within will be executed.
- \* Don't forget the terminator character used with geoSHELL. This is the

## NEW COMMANDS

This is a listing of new commands that have been added to geoSHELL in version 2.2. As always, you will find that these commands are easy to use and follow very similar rules in usage to the commands that you are already familiar with.

### **boot** (resident)

This command works only on a 128. If the current drive contains a valid boot disk, you will leave the GEOS environment and the disk will be booted. If the disk is not bootable, you will be informed as such and nothing will happen.

### **external** (external transient)

There are two ways to use this command. By issuing the command without any parameters, all of the external commands that are currently available will be listed. All of the drives are checked including the path partition if one is designated. This allows you to quickly check to see if a particular command is available. If you use 'external' followed by the name of an existing 'internal' transient command, then that command will be removed from the geoSHELL file on the currently active drive and placed into it's own file on the disk, thereby making the command into an external transient.

Example: external type

This will remove the type command from geoSHELL and make it a separate external transient command. The 'external' command is useful for trimming your copy of geoSHELL of commands that are rarely used. There is no way to remove 'resident' commands.

### **internal** (external transient)

There are two ways to use this command. By issuing the command without any parameters, all of the internal commands that are currently available will be listed. The command does not necessarily check every drive. It will only search until it finds the geoSHELL file. Then that particular copy of geoSHELL is checked and the commands contained within are displayed. The normal way that geoSHELL is searched is also used with this command. If you issue the command followed by a valid external transient command name, then that command will be eliminated as an external command and placed within the geoSHELL file on the currently active drive. It will then become an internal transient command. For this to work, the desired command must be first copied to the drive that geoSHELL is on. Then open the drive containing geoSHELL and issue the command 'internal' followed

by the name of the desired command that is to be altered.

Example: `fcopy b color80^ b: internal color80`

This example assumes drive B contains geoSHELL. You are copying 'color80' to drive B and then putting 'color80' into the geoSHELL file that resides on drive B.

There may be commands released from time to time that must remain in the form in which they are supplied. In other words, a command may not work unless it resides in it's own file as an external transient. The documentation supplied with a command should detail this. The commands supplied with the geoSHELL program disk can all be moved to an internal state.

configured as a ramdisk.

**lock** (external transient)

This command will either set or clear the write-protect bit of a file. It is a toggle function. If the file is already write-protected, this command will unlock the file. A locked file cannot be overwritten or deleted under normal circumstances. Only the currently active drive is searched for the desired file.

Example: `lock filename`

This will toggle the write-protect status of the desired file.

**parent** (resident)

This command works when using native partitions on CMD devices, such as the HD or RamLink. From BASIC, you might already know that you can use '@cd' followed by a left-arrow to move to the subdirectory that is the parent of the one you are currently in. And with geoSHELL, we can send commands to the drive, but we cannot produce the left-arrow character. So, this command was created to replace this sequence of keys. By using 'parent', you can return to whatever directory you passed through to get to the current subdirectory you are in.

Example: `parent`

This will move up one directory.

Example: `parent parent`

This will move up two directories.

**pcode** (external transient)

This will send control codes to your serial printer or interface. The parameters used must be ascii representations of numbers from 0 through 255 with a space between each number.

Example: `pcode 27 64`

This is the code to reset most printers.

You can send as many codes as will fit on a command line, or until an up-arrow terminator is found. You will find this command very useful

DOS wedge.

In the case of a ramdisk driver on a device that is capable of having several ramdisks or partitions such as an expanded REU or a BBG ram with several partitions, you can rename the installxxxx.128 or installxxxx.64 command to any name you wish to reflect the particular portion of the REU that is being used. With a little thought, you can install more than one ramdisk on the same device. Keep in mind, however, that there can only be one RAM\_1581 in use at any one time.

Let's say you are using a BBG ram with 5 1571 partitions. Use the learn command on each partition, but rename the created commands before using 'learn' on the next partition. Let's assume now that you have named the commands part1, part2, etc. Once you have done this with each of the five partitions, you can now change partitions right from geoSHELL without the use of a separate utility. All you have to do is use 'remove' in conjunction with your new commands.

Example: remove b part2

This example removes drive B from the system, but the rest of the command line reinstalls the BBG ram with partition 2 being opened. It's as simple as that. The best way to use the BBG ram would be to have geoSHELL and all of its commands in one of the five partitions and that partition could be installed as drive D. Then, any of your other partitions could be used as drive A, B or C, or a combination of two or three of them. geoSHELL allows you to have as many as four partitions open at once, but you might want to keep at least one floppy running as one of the devices.

**path** (external transient)

This command as well as the routines contained within geoSHELL now function as they were originally intended. They now work properly with native partitions and also with RamLink in geoSHELL V2.2. Previously, geoSHELL would always leave the path partition open instead of the partition you intended to work in. With native partitions, path now keeps the subdirectories open as it accesses geoSHELL in the specified root directory. Be sure to place 'getshell' in the subdirectories you intend to work in and geoSHELL and all commands in a root directory if you are using native partitions.

**swap** (internal transient)

This command has been improved in that it now works when the RamLink patches are applied to your kernel. Plus, with V2.0, it was required that at least one of the drives was configured as a ramdisk. This is no longer necessary. An REU or some form of ram expansion is, of course, still required to be on your system, but not necessarily

for configuring your printer or interface for special functions in GEOS.

Example: pcode 27 83 48 27 77 27 15 27 65 6^ @p dir @p

This example works on a Star NX-1000 and may also work on other printers as well. It will set the printer for condensed elite superscripts, and set the line spacing at 1/12 inch and then print the directory of your current drive in a very small print.

**root** (resident)

This command works when using native partitions on CMD devices, such as the HD or RamLink. The 'root' command will take you to the root directory of the current partition you are in. If you are in any subdirectory, you can use this command to go straight to the root directory.

**rtc** (external transient)

You can use this command to set your GEOS clock if you have a CMD device with a real-time clock. You may use it at any time, or preferably, you should place it in your boot startup file to automatically set the clock when you first boot up. The command only checks the current drive for the existence of a clock. So, you must first select the drive containing the clock and then enter the command. It was done this way since it is possible to have more than one device with a clock in it.

Example: b: rtc

This example assumes that drive B contains a clock.

## CHANGES TO EXISTING COMMANDS

This section outlines some changes that have been made to existing commands in geoSHELL with this new version.

### **fcopy** (internal transient)

Of all the existing commands, this one has received the most attention. You will especially like this command if you have a CMD device with multiple partitions. You may continue to use the fcopy command just as with V2.0, but there are some other ways to use it now. The way that the destination drive is specified is not exactly as it is listed in the V2.0 manual. Read this section here for it's proper usage. 'fcopy' can now copy across partitions. The 'duplicate' mode is now functional and is also capable of duplicating files across partitions. When using fcopy in it's 'duplicate' mode, you are making a duplicate copy of a file and giving it a different name at the same time. While in this mode, it will not overwrite a file of the same name.

For simple copying of files, you must still specify the destination drive as before.

Example: fcopy b filename

This would copy a file from the currently active drive to drive B.

Now for copying across partitions you would specify the destination a little differently.

Example: fcopy h3 filename

In this manner, you are specifying the HD as the destination drive with the 'h' in the destination parameter. You are also telling fcopy to use partition 3 as the destination partition. It makes no difference as to which drive is the currently active drive in this case, the destination will be whatever you specify. In this case, it is partition 3 on the hard drive. The only time this won't work is if partition 3 on the HD is the current partition on the currently active drive. If you have an FD Series floppy drive, you would use an 'f' to specify the destination drive. For a RamLink or RamDrive, use an 'r'. Always follow this with the desired partition number. Of course, the partition must be of the same type as you are currently using on that particular device. You can't open a native partition if you are using 1581 partitions and vice-versa.

To use fcopy in it's 'duplicate' mode, you must specify the desired file much like you would when you are using the 'rename' command.

Example: fcopy b newfile=oldfile

This will make another copy of the desired file and give it the name that you specify. In this manner, fcopy will work with the currently active drive as the destination. If the new filename already exists, then the copy will not proceed. This mode of fcopy is handy for making

successive backups of a data file you might be working on. You can duplicate a file to any drive or partition on your system. Since fcopy normally overwrites a file with the same name, you can use the duplicate mode to prevent this from happening. By making the newname the same as the existing name, you will be assured that an existing copy is not overwritten whenever you wish to copy a file and keep the name the same.

### **getkey** (resident)

This command used to be a transient command and as such was not as useful as it is now. It is now resident at all times and also now allows you to use any of the printable keys. Before, the best way to use 'getkey' was to first load it and then use it after you have displayed a message or menu to the screen. This is no longer necessary since getkey is always loaded. Refer to the main manual for this command. It's basic use has not changed otherwise.

### **help** (external transient)

The 'help' command itself has not been changed, but the helpfile it displays has been greatly expanded to include most every function available with geoSHELL.

### **learn** (external transient)

This command has been upgraded to work with all GEOS devices now, including the ram devices. Previously, it only worked with the CBM drives such as the 1541, 1571 and 1581. Read the manual to find out how to create a geoSHELL command for installing drives and then study the differences that have been made to the command here.

The names of the commands it creates will be slightly different so as not to interfere with any that you may have already created. Also, the command after it is created now requires you to specify the drive letter of the device you intend to turn on.

Example: install1581.128 c

This would make a 1581 that is drive 10 be recognized by GEOS on a 128 system.

Example: installRM71.64 d

This would make your REU emulate a RAM\_1571 as drive D on a 64. The ramdisk can be installed in any drive position A through D as long as there are no other drives being used in the desired position.

If you are installing a CMD device, it is always a good idea to immediately follow with a 'change partition' command so that the DOS in the drive and GEOS are working in the same partition as follows:

Example: installHDD81.128 b @cp10

This eliminates any problems you might encounter with the built-in