Lord DefCo' Guide to programming in QBASIC

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THANK-YOU,

Lord DefCo

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Systematic versus spaghetti

Now, you may or may not have been introduced to these terms before, but anyway, you must learn to format your code now, so you don't have to struggle to learn it later. It may seem like a waste of time, but believe me, I have lost many a good program to spaghetti code. What is spaghetti code? Spaghetti code is code that is not formatted in the accepted manner. Right now you just need to indent all your code 2 spaces from the margin. Comments stay on the margin. HINT if you indent one line, then press enter at the end of that line, it will automatically indent the next line. Press backspace to return to the margin. Here is an example:

Spaghetti code
REM This is a bad programming practice
PRINT "Yes it is"
PRINT "Oh yes it is"
END

Systematic code
REM This is formatted code
  PRINT "SEE the difference"
  PRINT "I BET YOU DO!!"
END

Since this was designed in word, the spaces do not show as well, but if you try it in the QBASIC editor, you will see it.

Lecture: Variables

So far, all of our programs, are static, it only will do what you specifically tell it to do. Also, if you want to change a word or fact, you have to go to every place where it appears in the code and change it. Well, no more. Now you will learn how to use variables. Just like in algebra, a variable is something that represents something else. In this case, letters that represent a number. I assume you have taken at least Algebra I when I write this, but if you need in depth help, just email me and I will try to help you.

To assign a number to a variable, you can just use the = sign. Or, a better practice is to use the LET command. They both have the same effect, however, LET will let you know in a hurry that you are giving a variable a value.
EXAMPLE:

REM We will give the variable named a the value of 4, print it then change it to 6 and print it
CLS
LET a = 4
PRINT a
LET a = 6
PRINT a
END

Notice that you didn't have to declare the variable to use it. You can just use a variable whenever, but it is good practice to use comments at the beginning of a program to remind you of what each variable is supposed to hold. Well, that's about all folks.

Commands:

Print –

Contact Information

Well, you are well on your way, I hope that you found this educational, it took me a long time to type all this stuff. Please send copies to your friends, post it on your BBS or place it (gently) on your web site. If you put it on a web site, please tell me. How, you ask? Well I am about to tell you.

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