FlashBack Special Edition
and
FlashBack Report Generator.

General Information.

These instructions should be read carefully before you attempt to use your new suite of programs. This suite of programs require a QL with at least a 256K memory expansion. The detailed instructions for FlashBack Special Edition and FlashBack Report Generator are provided electronically in special FlashBack files called Instruct_dba and Report_dba.

You are free to make as many copies of the programs as you wish for your own use. Each FlashBack Special Edition has an individual number embedded into it and illegal copies may therefore be traced back to you.

Configuration of your FlashBack. To facilitate the expansion of the compressed _dba files we have adjusted the set up parameters of FlashBack. To reduce the amount of space required by the program you can re-configure it with Config_bas. Set the 'References per record' to 3, the 'Expansion' to 9K and allow for say 30 new records.

FlashBack can be operated alone or inside TaskMaster with or without SpellBound. If you are an existing FlashBack user please note that you must use the new set of ancillary files.

Disc users start here, microdrive users please turn over.

For disc users the programs are supplied on a single 3.5 inch floppy disc. Under no circumstances attempt to run FlashBack from your Master Copy. Do not rename any of the FlashBack files nor save any files starting with FlashBack on your working copy.

Your first task is to create your working copy. For this you will require either one or two formatted floppy discs. You could put all the files on one floppy disc provided it had at least 300K (600 sectors) free space. You could , however, put FlashBack on one disc and the Report Generator on another. In the latter case you will need 100K for FlashBack and 200K for the Report Generator.

Place your FlashBack Master in flp1_ and auto-boot your system. After a short loading sequence you will see from the screen exactly what is happening. When all the files have been loaded into memory you will be asked to indicate the device that you normally boot up from. Do this by pressing the appropriate key.

Then, when requested, remove your Master disc to a safe place of storage.

Insert the formatted floppy disc into flp1_ and press <ENTER>.

You are then asked about the existence of a boot file on the disc you have just inserted. If you answer 'y' to the question you will be told that it will be renamed FlashBoot2. The FlashBack files are then copied to that disc.

You will then be asked if you want to have the Report Generator on a different disc. If you press <ENTER> the Report files will be added to the same disc. If you want the Report Generator on a separate disc follow the on screen instructions.

If you have put all the files on one disc then you must LRUN flp1_Boot to start FlashBack and LRUN flp1_RBoot for the Report Generator. If you have opted for two discs then you LRUN flp1_Boot from each disc.

Getting Started with FlashBack Special Edition discs.

Insert your working disc into the appropriate drive and auto-boot your system. When requested press R to run FlashBack. The turn on key is <ALT>\, i.e hold down the <ALT> key and tap the \ key.

You will see a few strange characters appearing at first. Do not worry about these. The instruction file (Instruct_dba) has been saved in a compressed form and is being expanded for you. If you save these instructions now they will be saved in the expanded form. So would you now please do the following:

Tap F3 and then tap W and finally tap <ENTER>.

FlashBack will ask you for confirmation to overwrite the file. Tap y to accept the overwrite and the file will then be written out (saved) ready for use next time in its expanded form.

You then may read the instructions given on the screen and learn all about your new program.

Microdrive users start here.

For microdrive users the programs are supplied on three microdrives. Under no circumstances attempt to run FlashBack from your Master Copy. Do not rename any of the FlashBack files nor save any files starting with FlashBack on your working copy.

Your first task is to create your working copy. For this you will require three formatted microdrives to hand with at least 205 sectors free on each. Please do not format your masters by mistake!

Place your FlashBack Master1 microdrive in mdv1_ and auto-boot your system. This will automatically load into memory the first set of files. When requested load FlashBack Master2 microdrive into mdv1_ and tap a key. Repeat with the FlashBack Master3 microdrive when requested.

When all the files have been loaded into memory you will be asked to indicate the device that you normally boot up from. Do this by pressing the appropriate key. Note: If you up-grade to discs you may use the microdrive masters to make a working copy on a floppy disc, just opt for flp1_.

Then remove your Master microdrives to a safe place of storage.

Insert the first formatted microdrive into mdv1_ and press <ENTER>. This will become the microdrive that you boot up FlashBack from. Tap <ENTER> and all the FlashBack Special Edition files will be copied onto it. It would be sensible to label it FlashBack-W1 as soon as the copying is complete.

When requested load your second formatted microdrive (labelled FlashBack-W2) and tap <ENTER>. This microdrive will have the instruction files copied onto it. These are read from within FlashBack.

Finally load the third formatted microdrive labelled FlashBack-W3. Tap <ENTER> and the files for the Report Generator will be copied onto it. This will be the microdrive that you boot up from to prepare a report.

Getting Started with FlashBack Special Edition on Microdrives.

To begin with have a spare formatted microdrive ready. Insert your working FlashBack-W1 microdrive into mdv1_ and your FlashBack-W2 microdrive into mdv2_. Then auto-boot your system. When requested press R to run FlashBack. The turn on key is <ALT>\, i.e hold down the <ALT> key and tap the \ key.

You will see a few strange characters appearing at first. Do not worry about these. The instruction file (Instruct_dba) has been saved in a compressed form and is being expanded for you. If you file these instructions now they will be saved in the expanded form. Remove the FlashBack-W2 microdrive and replace it with the spare one. Having done that please:

Tap F3 and then tap W and finally tap <ENTER>.

The file will then be written out (saved) ready for use next time in its expanded form.

You then may read the instructions given on the screen and learn all about your new program.

Report Generator on Discs and Microdrives.

To learn about the Report Generator load the file called Report_dba. This, like Instruct_dba, is supplied in a compressed form. Having learned how to READ files from Instruct_dba just READ it in and SAVE it back in its expanded form (Microdrive users please use another spare microdrive).

Run the appropriate boot program to load the Report Generator. The program expects to find Quill in flp1_ or mdv1_. Microdrive users will need to switch microdrives. From disc FlashBack is loaded and may be used in the background. If microdrive users wish to use FlashBack as well they should first load in FlashBack and then the Report Generator. The Report Generator can be used from within TaskMaster but it is necessary to save the screen, or leave the Report Generator at a stage where you can activate it with a RUN or an F1 key-press.

Acknowledgements.

FlashBack Special Edition and FlashBack Report Generator were written by Peter Jefferies. We would like to thank Charles Dillon, Charles Tassell and Freddy Vachha for their encouragement and assistance with this project. Special thanks to Lyn D.D.A. for coffee and moral support and to Alf Kendall for his advice during the project and his assistance with the documentation.