

1. INTRODUCTION

The PTS 6800 System provides a means of handling transactions at the time they are performed, and processing the required information immediately. It is an 'on-line system' and as such demands high standards of handling and processing data. On a batch system time can be taken to correct data errors, but for on-line working the source of the data, the transaction at the workstation, cannot always be recalled to repeat the transaction.

Data files are mostly required for immediate on-line access and the program must be able to find the required information in as short a time as possible. The same file may be accessed by more than one application at the same time, and each application may be making its own changes to the file.

To ease the programmer's task of manipulating data for different purposes, the PTS 6800 system has been supplied with a system of data management. This manual describes this data management system, how to set up the file structures for various purposes, and how to access the data in those files.

This manual has been written for both the Assembler programmer and the CREDIT programmer and does not contain information specific to those languages – it describes data management as seen by both languages.

Chapters 2 and 3 describe the general aspects and requirements of any system of managing data and may be familiar to the programmer experienced in the field of on-line processing. Nevertheless readers are advised to read these chapters first in order to understand the PTS viewpoint on familiar subjects like files, volume organisation, record handling, and security aspects.

Chapter 4 et seq. give a detailed explanation of the different kinds of file, how to create them and what instructions can be used for handling records in those files.

The detailed format of instructions in Assembler or CREDIT are explained in manuals M06, Assembler Programmer's Reference Manual and M04, CREDIT Programmer's Reference Manual. For the detailed instructions on operating each of the TOSS utility programs used in this Manual, the reader is referred to M08, the TOSS Utilities Reference Manual, or, in the case of certain utilities, to M11, the DOS6800 Reference Manual (TOSSUT utility).