Linker

Programmed by Radek Štěrba, RASTER 1995

Overview

Linker is a program that automatically links multiple files into one binary load file. The linking process is controlled by a *definition file*.

When executed, the program searches for **LINK.PRJ** file (default file name for the definition file). If the LINK.PRJ file is not found, you must enter a file name.

Syntax of the Definition File

`;text`
Comment

`@device:filename.ext`
Name of the resulting binary load file.

`device:filename.ext`
Include a binary load file.

`device:filename.ext, <address>`
Include flat (data) file as a new segment with header.
Address is a decimal or a hexadecimal (prefixed with $) number.

`RUN <address>`
Include RUNAD (run address).

`INIT <address>`
Include INITAD (init address).

Notes

Name of the resulting binary load file must be specified first in the definition file.

If you do not specify a device, D: is implied.

If you wish to use a definition file other than LINK.PRJ, ensure that LINK.PRJ is not present (by deletion or renaming).

Example

```
;My Program
;Created by ME
@D:RESULT.XEX
;Intro
D:PICTURE.PIC, 12288
D:INTRO.OBJ
INIT 14336
;Program data
;Character Sets
D:CHSET1.FNT, $4000
D:CHSET2.FNT, $4400
;Images
D:MAP.PIC, $4800
;Main Program
D:MYPROG.OBJ
;RUNAD
RUN $5000
```

If you execute LINK.COM, the files specified in the definition file will be linked to the D:RESULT.XEX file.

Advantages

You will save time when creating a program that consists of multiple segments. You do not have to repeatedly invoke the DOS COPY command with the /A switch.

You can use flat files (files without a binary header) directly. You just specify the address where the data will be loaded. A segment header is included automatically.

You can include INITAD and RUNAD.