VIP Integrated Library™

Softlaw Corporation

For the TRS-80 and TDP System 100 Computer

INTRODUCING VIP INTEGRATED LIBRARY

Finally, you can have the power and integration of Lotus Symphony (tm), 1 2 3 (tm) or Open Access (tm) for the larger micros on your Color Computer! The convenience of instant change to a new function, and effortless transfer of files is at the tip of your finger. All you need is a 64K Color Computer and at least one disk drive.

With VIP Desktop you have instant access to word processing, with a spelling checker always in attendance, data management with mail merge, spreadsheet financial analysis, tele-communications and disk maintenance. The applications are all powerful stand-alone programs developed over the past two years. They include: VIP Writer, VIP Speller, VIP Database, VIP Terminal, VIP Calc and VIP Disk-ZAP.

All VIP Integrated Library applications share common features, such as ease of use, built-in help, the same commands, full printer control, full use of your 64K of memory, and step-by-step tutorials. Most important, all essential applications feature professional high resolution lowercase displays to give you a choice of 51, 64 or 85 characters per line, with 21 or 24 lines per screen. You get a professional display on your Color Computer without any hardware modification!

VIP Integrated Library is a product with finesse, inside and out. Inside is one awesome but very elegant program. On the outside, the Library comes handsomely bound in two cloth covered, gold embossed binders with slipcases - like those you get with software for the Tandy 2000 (tm). And remember, to get software of this quality for the Tandy 2000 you would have to pay hundreds more!

What's On The Disk?

VIP Integrated Library comes on one dual-sided diskette. On the labeled side is the VIP Desktop program, which is the integrator of all six applications. Also contained on this side are the help files and sample files for VIP Writer and VIP Calc. On the reverse side of the disk is the dictionary for use with VIP Speller and a sample Tryme file to be spell checked.

The VIP Integrated Library distribution diskette is not protected. Please back up BOTH sides of the disk onto your own disks (preferably a two sided "flippy" disk) with the BACKUP command from BASIC. Then place the original away in a safe place.

Use With Single and Multiple Drives

VIP Integrated Library may be used with one disk drive, or up to four. Use with single drive systems and multiple drive systems is somewhat different. Each of the applications in VIP Integrated Library is a complete application. Thus, once you have loaded an application using VIP Desktop, you do not have to keep the Desktop disk in the drive while using the program. You may freely insert data disks for saving files and the like. However, when those of you who have a single drive system wish to call another application, or access the on-line help, you will have to re-insert the program disk.

Those of you with multiple drive systems will find it most convenient to keep the program disk in one drive and keep your data disk in another drive. This will facilitate immediate access of your files with new applications. You will also find it helpful to put your Writer and Calc help files (WH.HLP and CH.HLP) onto your data disks, as the help files are called from the currently used drive.

So How Do I Get Started?

VIP Integrated Library is integrated with VIP
Desktop. All applications are called using the
Desktop, and any time you leave an application, you
go back to the Desktop. So, to start using VIP
Integrated Library, you have to load VIP Desktop.
To do so, type LOADM"DESKTOP" and press 'Enter'.
You see a hand pointing at VIP Terminal.

Selection of applications is done with the hand.
You move the hand with the left and right arrow keys
to point at any of the volumes or at the exit sign.
When the hand is pointing at your selection, press
'Enter'. The desired application will load and you
will be ready to go. Or, you may exit to BASIC.

Try it by pointing at VIP Terminal and pressing
'Enter'. The screen should go blank as that
application is loaded. Now you have a menu for VIP
Terminal. Press 'Q' to quit the Terminal, and
answer the "Are you sure?" prompt with a 'Y'. The
Desktop will reappear.

You should know that the Desktop will always fetch
applications from the drive in which it was first
loaded. If you have accidentally used a different
disk in that drive or do not have a disk in that
drive when you call another application or the
Desktop, you will be asked to place the program disk
in the drive and press 'Enter'.

Whenever you quit an application, you will be
returned to the Desktop. Exiting all but the Writer
and Calc is guided by a menu selection. With VIP
Writer and VIP Calc you have to type END and press
'Enter' when on the command line. You can try this
by pointing the hand at the VIP Writer volume and
pressing 'Enter' to load it. When it is loaded,
type END and press 'Enter', then answer 'Y' to the
"Are you sure?" prompt. The Desktop will reappear.

Now that you know how to use VIP Desktop, it is time that you learned how to use the applications that it calls. First, however, let's talk about integration, and how VIP Integrated Library lets you merge and integrate files and applications.

All VIP Integrated Library applications are based in the standard ASCII system. This is the file structure used by almost all computers, printers and the like. This means that not only can files created with Library applications be used with other VIP Library programs, they can be used with other programs which use ASCII, even ones from other kind of computers. VIP Library applications can also use ASCII files from other programs and other computers.

As a practical matter, you will most often wish to use files created with VIP Calc, VIP Database or VIP Terminal in VIP Writer, since most of us like to write things with a word processor, and include reports from these other applications. Yet, because of the ASCII base, you will learn to use VIP Database with VIP Writer files for form letters and mass mailings. You may also, at times, want to look at worksheets for VIP Calc with VIP Writer. And VII Disk-ZAP will let you fix ASCII files.

Thus, your concern, in using VIP Integrated Library, will be with how to create and manipulate ASCII files. In each of the manuals for the separate applications there is a discussion of how to create and use ASCII files. You will be able to spot ASCII files created by any of the applications as .VIP is always the default extension for them.

VIP Writer is an ASCII word processor, so it can do anything with ASCII. It is versatile enough to be able to generate and use all 256 ASCII character codes. Since VIP Speller is an ASCII spelling

checker, it will of course spell check any Writer file, or other ASCII file you have created.

VIP Calc worksheets are saved in ASCII form. This is the raw data used to form the sheet, and not the display of the sheet. To be combined with VIP Writer files, the worksheet must be "printed" to the disk using the print function. This puts an ASCII representation of what you see on the screen on the disk, with the .VIP extension.

This is also the case with VIP Database files. The actual database is stored in an ASCII format, but not in the format which you may desire to have it displayed or printed. To get a copy of an invoice, etc., you have to "print" it to disk.

VIP Terminal is an ASCII communictions program, and will handle any ASCII file. Files saved by it are also in ASCII, so you can use these files in VIP Writer, or spell check them with VIP Speller.

On To The Manuals

By now you have played quite a bit with the Desktop, loading all the programs. It's now time to begin to learn how to use each of the applications. Each of the applications has a fully documented manual to help you get going. Go through the tutorials to get a feel for the applications. You will soon appreciate the shared commands.

Be sure to use the on-line help with VIP Writer and VIP Calc. You can also print these help screens by loading WH.HLP and CH.HLP into VIP Writer and printing them. After all, they are just ASCII files.

Now it's time for you to get to work. Have fun and good luck!

If You Should Need Help

You have just purchased a program which has gone through stringent testing. Be assured that VIP Integrated Library DOES function properly. It is now your responsibility to carefully read and refer to the thoughtfully written manuals and to thoroughly understand your printer, modem, interfaces and other devices to be able to use this program correctly.

Although this software is inexpensive, it is extremely powerful. With greater power necessarily comes greater complexity - the user can do more, and so must learn how to do it. Our customer service representatives will of course be happy to answer questions which cannot be answered by reading the manuals. However, we cannot be a consulting service to solve every problem you encounter while working with your printers, interfaces, modems and set-ups. Our experience has shown that 99% of user problems do not arise from problems in the software or the hardware, but from failure to read manuals, or failure to experiment with different solutions. You will save yourself time and money by taking on the responsibility of knowing your software and equipment.