



Vorne Industries

The Vorne Display-Pro Utility
Users Manual

Introduction

The Vorne Display-Pro Utility provides a complete development environment designed to decrease the time it takes to program the Vorne 2000C series alphanumeric canned message displays.

With the VDP utility, the user can create new message files (groups of related messages), open previously saved message files, simulate how the message will appear, print out a message file to the printer, and program the Vorne 2000C display with the messages of the current message file. The user can also communicate directly with the display and verify that it was programmed correctly.

System Requirements

The VDP software requires the following:

- a personal computer running MS-DOS or PC-DOS, version 2.00 or later;
- one floppy-disk drive or hard disk;
- 256K RAM available memory; and
- one Asynchronous Communications Adapter (serial port).

The Vorne 2000C display can be connected to the PC's serial port "D" shell connector as follows:

	Signal Ground	Transmit Data
2000C display: 64 Message 2000C display: 250 Message	Pin 2 Pin 1 of 16	Pin 6 Pin 3 of 16
PC Serial Port: 9 Pin PC Serial Port: 25 Pin	Pin 5 Pin 7	Pin 3 Pin 2

Getting Started

To run the VDP utility:

- Boot up the PC with your system diskette in drive A by either turning on the power or pressing the keys <Ctrl><Alt> simultaneously.
- Insert the VDP diskette into drive A.
- Enter the command VDP and press the <Enter> key. The PC will automatically execute the utility.

Brief Introduction

The top line of the screen is the menu bar. It lists all of the menus that are available for use throughout the program. To open a menu, hold down the left <Alt> shift key and type the highlighted letter of the menu name.

A small window pops up underneath the menu bar and displays a list of commands that are available for that particular menu. Any command that is dimmed cannot be selected at this particular point in time. Commands that are preceded by a check mark signify that the function is in effect. Commands followed by an ellipsis (...) will prompt for further information before performing their function.

Commands can be selected by using the <Space> bar to highlight a particular command and then pressing the <Enter> key. Adjacent menus can be opened by using the <Left> or <Right> cursor keys located on the numeric keypad. Pressing the <Esc> key closes the menu without executing any command.

Common Tasks

Creating a new message file:

Use the OPEN command located in the FILE menu. Press the <Enter> key when the choice <new_file> is highlighted. If OPEN is dimmed, first choose CLOSE and then OPEN.

Opening a message file that was previously saved:

Use the OPEN command located in the FILE menu. Use the <Space> bar to highlight the desired file to open and press the <Enter> key. If OPEN is dimmed, first choose CLOSE and then OPEN.

Adding a new message:

Use the CREATE command located in the MESSAGE menu. Enter the range of messages that you wish to create in the From: and To: prompts and press the <Enter> key. If CREATE is dimmed, the maximum number of messages have already been created for this message file.

Changing an existing message:

Use the MODIFY command located in the MESSAGE menu. You will be presented with a dialog box that allows you to modify the Type (FIXED, FLASHED, or SCROLLED), Timing (TIL NEXT or from 01 to 99), the Text (using the alphanumeric keys on your keyboard), and the Chain Links (up to 8 other links). If MODIFY is dimmed, there are no messages to change.

Removing an existing message:

Use the DELETE command located in the MESSAGE menu. Enter the range of messages that you wish to delete in the From: and To: prompts and press the <Enter> key. If DELETE is dimmed, there are no more messages to delete.

Simulating how the message will appear on the 2000C display:

Use the MODIFY command located in the MESSAGE menu. Hold down the left <Alt> shift key and press the letter <S>.

Printing out all messages within the message file:

Use the PRINT command located in the FILE menu. Make sure that the printer is connected correctly and power is turned on. If you would like to choose between a parallel printer and serial printer, use the CHOOSE PRINTER command located in the SETUP menu. If the PRINT command is dimmed, no message file is currently opened or there are no messages to print. Use the OPEN command first, and then PRINT.

Programming the 2000C display:

Use the DUMP command located in the FILE menu. If you would like to program the 2000C with just the existing messages in the message file, choose “Only” from the dialog box. If you would like to program all of the messages using either the default reset message or a blank message to replace any uncreated messages, choose either “and Reset Messages” or “and Blank Messages” from the dialog box. Make sure that the 2000C display is connected to the host computer and it is in program mode. If the DUMP command is dimmed, no message file is currently opened or there are no messages to dump. Use the OPEN command first, and then DUMP. Use the DISPLAY PORT command in the SETUP menu to verify that the software is using the correct serial port to communicate with the 2000C display.

Communicating directly with the 2000C display:

Use the TERMINAL command located in the SETUP menu. Make sure that the 2000C display is connected to the host computer and that it is in program mode. Use the DISPLAY PORT command in the SETUP menu to verify that the software is using the correct serial port to communicate with the 2000C display.

Saving a modified message file:

Use the SAVE command located in the FILE menu. Type in a file name up to eight characters long and press the <Enter> key. SAVE is dimmed when there is no message file open.

Having more messages displayed on the screen at once:

Getting the program to respond quicker to commands:

Toggle the PEEK AT HELP command located in the HELP menu to hide the help box located near the bottom of the screen. This help box displays the first three lines of the help text located in the help file, and is useful for users unfamiliar with the operation of the software. Since help is always available by holding down the <Ctrl> shift key and pressing the <H> key, more experienced users may choose to hide this box and use the ^H key combination to access help only when they need it.

Troubleshooting

The VDP Utility does not communicate with the 2000C display:

Verify that your PC has a serial port. Run the VDP Utility and open the SETUP menu. Select the DISPLAY PORT command. If both COM1 and COM2 are not highlighted, the host PC does not have a serial port. You will need to install an asynchronous communications adapter in your PC to utilize the VDP software's ability to program the 2000C display.

Verify that the physical connection between the PC and the 2000C display is correct. Use the chart up above to verify which pins to use. Make sure that the connections are soldered.

Make sure that the PROG pin is connected to the DC GROUND pin on the 2000C display. All other connections on the 2000C terminal strip **must** be left unconnected (floating). Failure to heed this warning may result in erratic behavior from the 2000C display.

If your PC has more than one serial port, verify that the VDP software is using the correct one. Open the SETUP menu and choose the DISPLAY PORT command. Make sure that the check mark precedes the correct communications port.

The VDP Utility incorrectly programs the 2000C display:

Verify that the PC is correctly wired to the 2000C display. Open the SETUP menu and choose the TERMINAL command. Press the <Enter> key several times. If the messages of the 2000C display do not advance, verify the connection as described in the previous subsection.

The current version of the VDP Utility no longer supports the older 2000C displays which can only address 64 messages. If you have an older 2000C display, you may call and ask for an older version of the VDP Utility which can program the 64 message 2000C displays.

The timing of the VDP software may be slightly off. Open the hidden SYSTEM menu by holding down the <Alt> key and pressing the <I> key and choose the TIMING command. The Timing dialog allows three delays to be modified. Increment the delays by a factor of 1 cS (centisecond) and try once again to program the 2000C display. Repeat until the 2000C display programs correctly.

The VDP Utility locks up the computer:

The VDP Utility is not compatible with some display drivers. If VDP locks up your computer, try the following: From the DOS prompt, type **MODE MONO <ENTER>**. This will place the computer in monochrome mode. Then run the VDP Utility by typing **VDP <ENTER>**. The program will now run in black and white. After you are finished running the VDP Utility, type **MODE CO80 <ENTER>** to return your computer to color mode.

Note: Some versions of DOS use a slightly different syntax (e.g., MODE MDA). Refer to your DOS manual for further details.



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