

SYSTEM 3 REVIEW by Eric Burgess

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I recently bought a copy of System Software's SYSTEM 3 and have used it for editing and debugging old programs and writing new ones. The program is excellent and far superior to SYSTEM 2 which I have had for some time. All the Word Processor-type commands on the keypad, can be used in the EDIT mode. SYSTEM 3 adds some 15 new commands. REN allows renumbering of lines in selected increments and between limits. TRACE displays the logical flow of a running program and can be from a selected line or for the whole program. HELP is particularly useful when you get an error message; it flags the location in the line where the computer sees the problem. FIND also is terrific. It allows you to find anything in the program, listing all the lines in which a specified variable, string, or expression occurs.

The values of numeric or string variables can be listed as they are currently defined either during a run or at the end of a program. This is a very useful debugging tool. Groups of lines can be deleted, blanks can be closed up to free memory, and there is a Centronics driver. Other printer drivers can also be accommodated. You can verify CLOAD without losing a program if there is a CRC error, and most importantly, you can MERGE two programs into one. An excellent feature lets you recover a program after CLOAD, NEW or RESET.

One word of warning. I have run into difficulties if I tried to load SYSTEM 3 after I had loaded the program I wanted to work on. SYSTEM 3 must be loaded first because it relocates itself to high memory. I have found my programming and debugging time is very much reduced with this program, and have experienced no difficulties with it. It runs smoothly and does all that it is claimed for it by System Software.