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Introduction – Product Line Sort

The Product Line Sort program provides three ways to sort either a range of parts or all parts in a complete product line. Parts can be sorted using the *ASCII*, *string* or *numeric* sorting methods. If a product line is not sorted correctly, the user has the ability to restore the product line back to its original state. Before performing a sort, perform a backup!

ASCII Sorting Method

The product line ASCII sorting method is fairly complex. To have a better understanding of the sorting process, we have outlined a step-by-step example of a few parts that will be sorted using the ASCII sorting method. This will show what happens to the group of parts after each step within the sorting process.

 **Note:** All sorting methods ignore the 3 character manufacturer codes!

Table I Unsorted Parts is our example of an unsorted listing of numbers.

FEL-HS7733PT-2
FEL-17291A
FEL-3250
FEL-CS7733-2
FEL-17291
FEL-FS7733PT-2
FEL-3510
FEL-HS7733PT-11
FEL-16322

Table I Unsorted Parts

Step 1: ASCII sorts column by column within the body of the part number and places the results in a table. See **Table II Completed ASCII Sorted Parts** to see how the parts table would look like upon completion. Notice how parts are grouped by the numeric characters (1's) and (3's) first and then alphabetic (C's, F's and H's).

FEL-16322
FEL-17291
FEL-17291A
FEL-3250
FEL-3510
FEL-CS7733-2
FEL-FS7733PT-2
FEL-HS7733PT-2
FEL-HS7733PT-11

Table II Complete ASCII Sorted Parts

String Sorting Method

The product line string sorting method is fairly complex. To have a better understanding of the sorting process, we have outlined a step-by-step example of a few parts that will be sorted using the string sorting method. This will show what happens to the group of parts after each step within the string sorting process.

 **Note:** All sorting methods ignore the 3 character manufacturer codes!

Table I Unsorted Parts is our example of an unsorted listing of numbers.

FEL-HS7733PT-2
FEL-17291A
FEL-3250
FEL-CS7733-2
FEL-17291
FEL-FS7733PT-2
FEL-3510
FEL-HS7733PT-11
FEL-16322

Table I Unsorted Parts

Step 1: ASCII sorts all parts and places the results in a table. See **Table II ASCII Sorted Parts** to see how the parts table would look like at this point.

FEL-16322
FEL-17291
FEL-17291A
FEL-3250
FEL-3510
FEL-CS7733-2
FEL-FS7733PT-2
FEL-HS7733PT-2
FEL-HS7733PT-11

Table II ASCII Sorted Parts

Step 2: Groups parts by the first alphabetic or numeric characters (key) and places results in a sub-table for each group. See **Table III Parts Sub-Grouped** to see how the parts table and its sub-tables would look like at this point. Notice the first sub-table has parts grouped by the numeric characters (17291), while the second sub-table has parts grouped by the alphabetic characters (HS).

Table III Parts Sub-Grouped

FEL-17291
FEL-17291A

Step 3: Sorts all parts within each sub-table based upon the numeric characters (after the key) and places the results in the table. See **Table IV Numeric Sorted Sub-Grouped Parts** to see how the parts table would look.

FEL-17291
FEL-17291A
FEL-HS7733PT-11
FEL-HS7733PT-2

Table IV Numeric Sorted Sub-Grouped Parts

Step 4: Groups parts within each sub-table based upon the numeric characters (after the key) and places the results into another sub-table. See **Table V Numeric Sub-Grouped Parts** to see how the parts table would look.

FEL-17291
FEL-17291A

Table V Numeric Sub-Grouped Parts

Step 5: ASCII sorts all parts within each sub-table and places the results in the table. See **Table VI String Sorted Parts** to see how the completed parts table would look.

FEL-3250
FEL-3510
FEL-16322
FEL-17291
FEL-17291A
FEL-CS7733-2
FEL-FS7733PT-2
FEL-HS7733PT-11
FEL-HS7733PT-2

Table VI Completed String Sorted Parts

The String sorting method is the most common method used to sort the majority of product lines.

Numeric Sorting Method

The product line numeric sorting method is fairly straightforward. The way this sorting method works is it will find the first numeric portion of a part and sort accordingly. To gain a better understanding of the sorting process, we will show an example of a few parts that will be sorted using the numeric sorting method.

 **Note:** All sorting methods ignore the 3 character manufacturer codes!

Table VII Unsorted Parts is our example of an unsorted listing of numbers.

BCA-A2
BCA-RW3
BCA-BO1
BCA-A1D
BCA-A1

Table VII Unsorted Parts

Step 1: Sorts all parts based upon the first numeric characters. **Table VIII Completed Numerically Sorted Parts** to see how the parts table would look when completed.

BCA-A1D
BCA-A1
BCA-B01
BCA-A2
BCA-RW3

Table VI Completed Numerically Sorted Parts

Performing A Product Line Sort

- From the *Autologue Main Menu*, enter **21** and press **<Return>**.
- When the *Utility Menu 1* is displayed, enter **1** (*Select Utility Menu 2*).
- When the *Utility Menu 2* is displayed, enter **1** (*Select Utility Menu 3*).
- When the *Utility Menu 3* is displayed, enter **3** (*Product Line Sort*).

The following screen will be displayed:

[illegible]

- If *everyone* is off the system and a backup was performed, enter **y** at the **Do You Wish To Continue ? [Y / N]** prompt and press **<Return>**.
- With the cursor now positioned at the **Which Product Line :** prompt, enter the product line number you wish to sort and press **<Return>**.
- With the cursor now positioned at the **From (or ALL) which Part Number :** prompt, enter the part number (in capital letter & include all dashes) you wish to start the sort from and press **<Return>** or enter **ALL** (in upper case) and press

<Return> to sort the complete product line number. If a part number was entered, the cursor will now be positioned at the **To which Part Number :** prompt, enter the part number (in capital letter & include all dashes) and press **<Return>**.

The following will now be displayed:

```

#-----#
#                                     #
#   This Program MUST be run with EVERYONE off of the system !!!   #
#   DO A BACKUP FIRST !!!!                                           #
#-----#

Do You Wish To Continue ? [ Y / N ] : y

Which Product Line : 0

From (or ALL) which Part Number : ALL

Which Sort Type ?
[ASCII Sort
[S]tring Sort
[N]umber Sort
: █

```

- With the cursor next to the **:** prompt, enter **a** to sort the product line using the ASCII string sorting method or enter **s** to sort the product line using the string sorting method or **n** to sort the product line using the numeric sorting method and press **<Return>**.

The sorting process will be performed and will display some information on the screen as it's sorting. When finished, the *Utility Menu 3* screen will again be displayed.

Restoring From A Product Line Sort

Each time a product line sort is performed, the current order of the product line is saved. If a sort is performed and it does not turn out as expected, the user can restore the product line back to its original order before the sort.

- ☞ **Caution:** This will restore the product line only back to the order it was in just before the sort was performed!!! This is the reason we suggest performing a backup before starting this process.

Below are the product line restoring steps:

- From the *Autologue Main Menu*, enter **21** and press **<Return>**.
- When the *Utility Menu 1* is displayed, enter **1** (*Select Utility Menu 2*).
- When the *Utility Menu 2* is displayed, enter **1** (*Select Utility Menu 3*).

- When the *Utility Menu 3* is displayed, enter **4** (*Undo Product Line Sort*).
- If *everyone* is off the system, enter **y** at the **Do You Wish To Continue ? [Y / N]** prompt and press **<Return>**.
- With the cursor now positioned at the **Which Product Line :** prompt, enter the product line number to be unsorted and press **<Return>**.

The sorting restore process will be performed and will display some information on the screen as it's sorting. When finished, the *Utility Menu 3* screen will again be displayed.