

Version 8 of Icon for OS/2

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1. Introduction

Version 8 of Icon for OS/2 should run on any computer that runs OS/2. Icon for OS/2 is a large-memory model program. Its data regions are limited to 65K and are fixed in size once execution begins. Math coprocessors are supported and used if present; otherwise software emulation is used.

Version 8 of Icon for OS/2 is distributed on a 3.5" or 5.25" diskette. It includes executable binary files, a few test programs, and documentation in machine-readable form. Printed documents are included with diskettes distributed by the Icon Project at the University of Arizona.

This implementation of Icon is in the public domain and may be copied and used without restriction. The Icon Project makes no warranties of any kind as to the correctness of this material or its suitability for any application. The responsibility for the use of Icon lies entirely with the user.

2. Documentation

The basic reference for the Icon programming language is the book

The Icon Programming Language, second edition, Ralph E. Griswold and Madge T. Griswold, Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1990. 365 pages. ISBN 0-13-447889-4. \$29.95.

This book is available from the Icon Project at the University of Arizona. It also can be ordered through any bookstore that handles special orders or by telephone directly from Prentice-Hall: (201) 767-9520.

Note that the first edition of this book, published in 1983, describes an older version of Icon and does not contain information about many of the features of Version 8.

A brief overview of Icon is contained in technical report TR 90-6 [1] (`tr90-6.doc` on the distribution diskette). Features that have been added to Icon since the first edition of the book was written are described in TR 90-1 [2] (`tr90-1.doc` on the distribution diskette). These technical reports, together with this document (`ipd131.doc` on this diskette), provide enough information to write and run simple Icon programs, but persons who intend to use Icon extensively will need the book.

3. Installing OS/2 Icon

Two executable binary files are needed to run Icon:

<code>icont.exe</code>	translator
<code>iconx.exe</code>	executor

These files should be located at a place on your `PATH` specification.

The distribution is contained in several files in ARC format. A copy of `arc.exe` is included for dearchiving. The distribution files are:

<code>arc.exe</code>	archiving utility
<code>icon.arc</code>	executable binary files [302KB]
<code>samples.arc</code>	Icon programs and data [3KB]
<code>docs.arc</code>	documents [90KB]
<code>readme</code>	installation overview and recent notes

The figures in brackets give the approximate amount of disk space needed when the files are extracted from their archives.

To install the .exe files, set your current directory to the desired place, place the distribution diskette in drive A, and dearchive the files there using arc.exe on the distribution diskette:

```
a:arc x a:icon.arc
```

4. Running OS/2 Icon — Basic Information

Files containing Icon programs must have the extension .icn. Such files should be plain text files (without line numbers or other extraneous information). The icon translator produces an “icode” file that can be executed by iconx. For example, an Icon program in the file prog.icn is translated by

```
icont prog.icn
```

The result is an icode file with the name prog.icx. This file can be run by

```
iconx prog.icx
```

Alternatively, iconx can be instructed to execute the icode file after translation by appending a -x to the command line, as in

```
icont prog.icn -x
```

If iconx is run with the -x option, the file prog.icx is left and can be run subsequently using iconx as described above.

The extensions .icn and .icx are optional. For example, it is sufficient to use

```
icont prog
```

and

```
iconx prog
```

5. Testing the Installation

There are a few programs on the distribution diskette that can be used for testing the installation and getting a feel for running Icon:

hello.icn This program prints the Icon version number, time, and date. Run this test as

```
icont hello  
iconx hello
```

Note that this can be done in one step with

```
icont hello -x
```

cross.icn This program prints all the ways that two words intersect in a common character. The file cross.dat contains typical data. Run this test as

```
icont cross -x <cross.dat
```

meander.icn This program prints the “meandering strings” that contain all subsequences of a specified length from a given set of characters. Run this test as

```
icont meander -x <meander.dat
```

roman.icn This program converts Arabic numerals to Roman numerals. Run this test as

```
icont roman -x
```

and provide some Arabic numbers from your console.

If these tests work, your installation is probably correct and you should have a running version of Icon.

6. More on Running Icon

For simple applications, the instructions for running Icon given in Section 4 may be adequate. The `icont` translator supports a variety of options that may be useful in special situations. There also are several aspects of execution that can be controlled with environment variables. These are listed here. If you are new to Icon, you may wish to skip this section on the first reading but come back to it if you find the need for more control over the translation and execution of Icon programs.

6.1 Arguments

Arguments can be passed to the Icon program by appending them to the command line. Such arguments are passed to the main procedure as a list of strings. For example,

```
iconx prog text.dat log.dat
```

runs the icode file `prog.icx`, passing its main procedure a list of two strings, `"text.dat"` and `"log.dat"`. The program also can be translated and run with these arguments with a single command line by putting the arguments after the `-x`:

```
icont prog -x text.dat log.dat
```

These arguments might be the names of files that `prog.icn` reads from and writes to. For example, the main procedure might begin as follows:

```
procedure main(a)
  in := open(a[1]) | stop("cannot open input file")
  out := open(a[2],"w") | stop("cannot open output file")
  :
```

See also the information about the processing of command-line arguments given in Section 6.4.

6.2 The Translator

The `icont` translator can accept several Icon source files at one time. When several files are given, they are translated and combined into a single icode file whose name is derived from the name of the first file. For example,

```
icont prog1 prog2
```

translates the files `prog1.icn` and `prog2.icn` and produces one icode file, `prog1.icx`.

A name other than the default one for the icode file produced by `icont` can be specified by using the `-o` option, followed by the desired name. For example,

```
icont -o probe.icx prog
```

produces the icode file named `probe.icx` rather than `prog.icx`.

If the `-c` option is given to `icont`, the translator stops before producing an icode file and intermediate “ucode” files with the extensions `.u1` and `.u2` are left for future use (normally they are deleted). For example,

```
icont -c prog1
```

leaves `prog1.u1` and `prog1.u2`, instead of producing `prog1.icx`. These ucode files can be used in a subsequent `icont` command by using the `.u1` name. This saves translation time when the program is used again. For example,

```
icont prog2 prog1.u1
```

translates `prog2.icn` and combines the result with the ucode files from a previous translation of `prog1.icn`. Note that only the `.u1` name is given. The extension can be abbreviated to `.u`, as in

```
icont prog2 prog1.u
```

Ucode files also can be added to a program using the `link` declaration in an Icon source program as described in [2].

Icon source programs may be read from standard input. The argument `-` signifies the use of standard input as a source file. In this case, the ucode files are named `stdin.u1` and `stdin.u2` and the icode file is named `stdin.icx`.

The informative messages from the translator can be suppressed by using the `-s` option. Normally, both informative messages and error messages are sent to standard error output.

The `-t` option causes `&trace` to have an initial value of `-1` when the icode file is executed. Normally, `&trace` has an initial value of `0`.

The option `-u` causes warning messages to be issued for undeclared identifiers in the program.

Icon has several tables related to the translation of programs. These tables are large enough for most programs, but translation is terminated with an error message, indicating the offending table, if there is not enough room. If this happens, larger table sizes can be specified by using the `-S` option. This option has the form `-S[cfgilnrstCFL]n`, where the letter following the `S` specifies the table and `n` is the number of storage units to allocate for the table.

<code>c</code>	constant table	100
<code>f</code>	field table	100
<code>g</code>	global symbol table	200
<code>i</code>	identifier table	500
<code>l</code>	local symbol table	100
<code>n</code>	line number table	1000
<code>r</code>	record table	100
<code>s</code>	string space	20000
<code>t</code>	tree space	15000
<code>C</code>	code buffer	15000
<code>F</code>	file names	10
<code>L</code>	labels	500

The units depend on the table involved, but the default values can be used as guides for appropriate settings of `-S` options without knowing the units. For example,

```
icont -Sc200 -Sg600 prog
```

translates `prog.icn` with twice the constant table space and three times the global symbol table space that ordinarily would be provided.

6.3 Environment Variables

When an icode file is executed, several environment variables are examined to determine execution parameters. The values assigned to these variables should be numbers.

Environment variables are particularly useful in adjusting Icon's storage requirements. This may be necessary if your computer does not have enough memory to run programs that require an unusually large amount of data. Particular care should be taken when changing default sizes: unreasonable values may cause Icon to malfunction.

The following environment variables can be set to affect Icon's execution parameters. Their default values are listed in parentheses after the environment variable name:

`TRACE` (undefined). This variable initializes the value of `&trace`. If this variable has a value, it overrides the translation-time `-t` option.

`NOERRBUF` (undefined). If this variable is set, `&errout` is not buffered.

`STRSIZE` (65000). This variable determines the size, in bytes, of the region in which strings are stored.

`HEAPSIZE` (65000). This variable determines the size, in bytes, of the region in which Icon allocates lists, tables, and other objects.

`COEXPSIZE` (2000). This variable determines the size, in 32-bit words, of each co-expression block.

`MSTKSIZE` (10000). This variable determines the size, in words, of the main interpreter stack.

QLSIZE (5000). This variable determines the size, in bytes, of the region used by the garbage collector for pointers to strings.

The maximum region size that can be specified is 65000. Region sizes remain fixed during execution.

6.4 Details of Command-Line Processing

The processing of command-line arguments normally is important only in running `ICONX`.

The following rules apply to both:

- An argument containing white space must be enclosed in double quotes ("). For example, "abc def" is a valid argument. The quotes are deleted in the string passed to `ICONX`.
- If a quoted argument contains a double quote, the embedded quote must be preceded by a backslash. For example, "abc de\"f" is a valid argument. The outer quotes and the backslash are deleted in the string passed to `ICONX`.
- If a non-quoted argument contains a double quote, the embedded quote can be preceded by a backslash or not. For example, abc\"d and abc"d are equivalent arguments.
- To pass a double quote as an argument, precede it with a backslash.
- Wild-card characters are not expanded.
- Quote-balancing errors are not checked.

7. Features of OS/2 Icon

OS/2 Icon supports all the features of Version 8 of Icon, including large-integer arithmetic, with the following exceptions and additions:

- There are two additional options for `open`: "t" and "u". The "t" option, which is the default, indicates that the file is to be translated into UNIX* format. All carriage-return/line-feed sequences are translated into line-feed characters on both input and output. The "u" option indicates that the file is to be untranslated. Examples are:

```
untranfile := open("test.fil","ru")
tranfile := open("test.new","wt")
```

For files opened in the translate mode, the position produced by `seek` may not reflect the actual byte position because of the translation of carriage-return/line-feed sequences to line-feed characters.

- Path specifications can be entered using either a / or a \. Examples are:

```
A:\ICONTTEST.ICN
A:/ICON/TEST.ICN
```

- The following OS/2 device names can be used as file names:

console	CON
printer	PRN LST LPT LPT1
auxiliary port	AUX COM RDR PUN
null	NUL NULL

For example,

```
prompt := open("CON","w")
```

causes strings written to `prompt` to be displayed on the console. Use of a null file name means no file is created.

*UNIX is a trademark of AT&T Bell Laboratories.

8. Known Bugs

A list of known bugs in Icon itself is given in [2]. There are no known bugs that are specific to the OS/2 implementation of Icon.

9. Reporting Problems

Problems with Icon should be noted on a trouble report form (included with the distribution) and sent to

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Tucson, AZ 85721
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(602) 621-4049

icon-project@cs.arizona.edu (Internet)
... {uunet, allegra, noao}@arizona!icon-project (uucp)

10. Registering Copies of Icon

If you received your copy of Version 8 of Icon directly from the Icon Project, it has been registered in your name and you will receive the Icon Newsletter without charge. This Newsletter contains information about new implementations, updates, programming techniques, and information of general interest about Icon.

If you received your copy of Version 8 of Icon from another source, please fill out the registration form that is included in the documents in the distribution) and send it to the Icon Project at the address listed above. This will entitle you to a free subscription to the Icon Newsletter and assure that you receive information about updates.

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The implementation of Icon was adapted to OS/2 by Cheyenne Wills in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. He also provided some of the technical material contained in this document.

References

1. R. E. Griswold, *An Overview of Version 8 of the Icon Programming Language*, The Univ. of Arizona Tech. Rep. 90-6, 1990.
2. R. E. Griswold, *Version 8 of Icon*, The Univ. of Arizona Tech. Rep. 90-1, 1990.