

QLONE from Ultrasoft

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A toolkit with a difference, the Ultrasoft Qlone+ Toolkit serves a single main purpose – new keywords are added to SuperBASIC to simplify the cloning of files and it supports services for both cartridge and floppy drives.

The 11 keywords included in the system implement the full range of facilities required for the job and enable you, with minimal typing or opportunity for error, to set the defaults for source and destination devices as required, selectively or mass clone files, obtain a detailed directory of files on both drives, set the size of the copy buffer and to perform limited garbage clearing from the common heap acquired during prolific use.

A useful command included in the Qlone+ repertoire is Change. This keyword provides a means for patching a string in a file. The most common use for the option is to replace all occurrences of “mdv” with “flp” when files are converted for use in disc-based systems. The only restriction on this keyword which must be observed is that the new string must be of the same length as the one being replaced.

Also included with the program is one of the most useful clock routines I have yet encountered. Occupying a miniscule 300 bytes or so, the clock makes its appearance by pressing <SHIFT> & <ALT>, disappearing again when either or both of the keys is released. Also indicated in the clock display is the amount of free memory available. Of more questionable value, after you have seen it for the first time, is your QL QDOS version number. Qlone+ also includes a disk monitor.

Although the review copy of Qlone+ included a standard type of RAM disc, the minimal documentation, on a Quill file included with the program, made hints of upgrading it soon to a superfast version.