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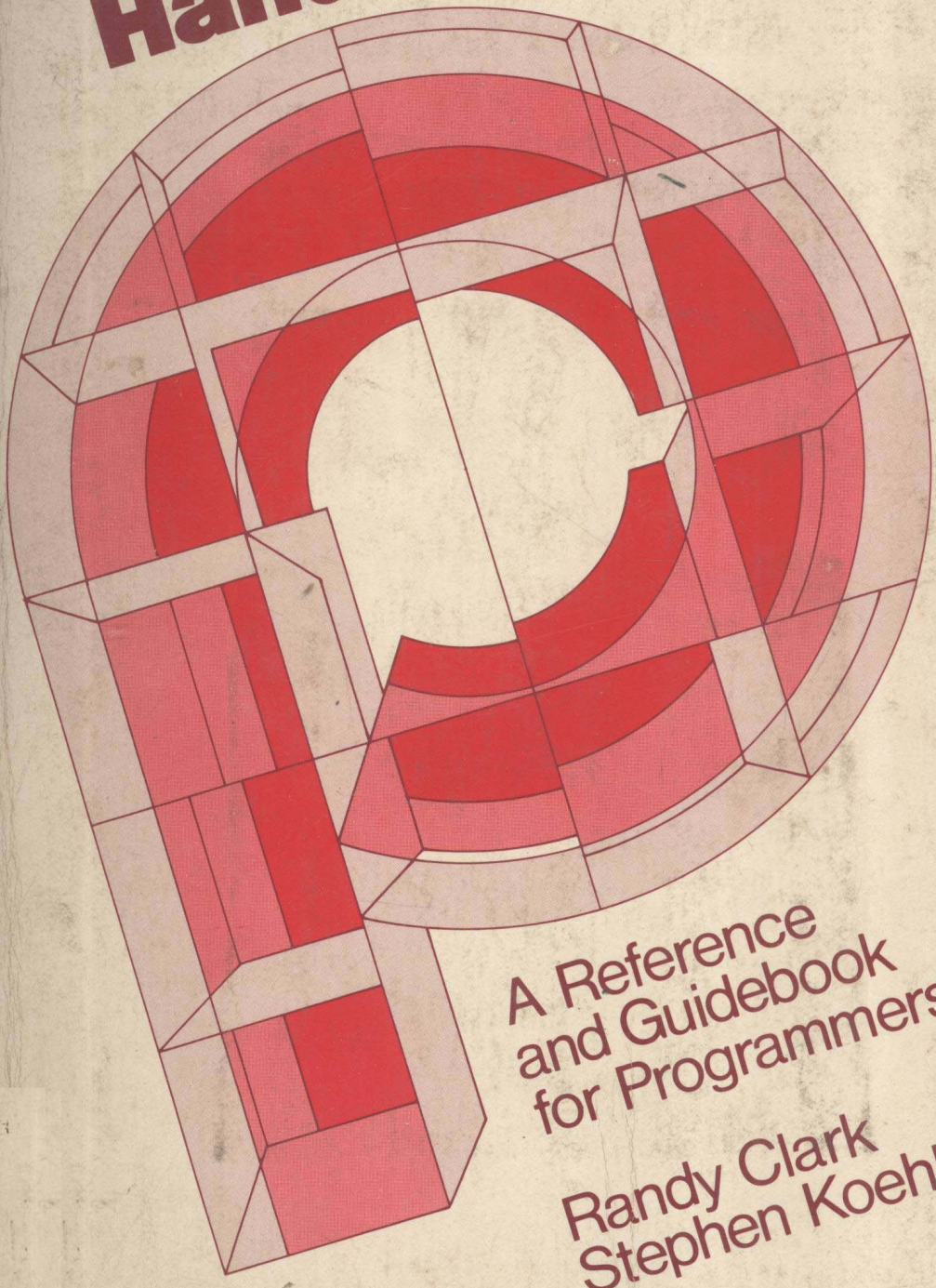
The UCSD Pascal Handbook



A Reference and Guidebook for Programmers

Randy Clark
Stephen Koehler

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RANDY CLARK
STEPHEN KOEHLER

PRENTICE-HALL, INC., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey 07632

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Clark, Randy.
The UCSD Pascal handbook.

(Prentice-Hall software series)
Bibliography: p.343
Includes index.
1. PASCAL (Computer program language)
2. UCSD Pascal Software System (Computer system) I. Koehler, Stephen. II. Title.
III. Title: U.C.S.D. Pascal handbook.
IV. Series.
QA76.73.P2C56 001.64'24 81-17795
ISBN 0-13-935544-8 AACR2
ISBN 0-13-935536-7 (pbk.)

Editorial/production supervision by *Linda Paskiet*
Cover design by Jorge Hernandez
Manufacturing buyer: *Gordon Osbourne*

Printed in the United States of America

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

ISBN 0-13-935544-8

ISBN 0-13-935536-7 {PBK}

PRENTICE-HALL INTERNATIONAL, INC., *London*
PRENTICE-HALL OF AUSTRALIA PTY. LIMITED, *Sydney*
PRENTICE-HALL OF CANADA, LTD., *Toronto*
PRENTICE-HALL OF INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED, *New Delhi*
PRENTICE-HALL OF JAPAN, INC., *Tokyo*
PRENTICE-HALL OF SOUTHEAST ASIA PTE. LTD., *Singapore*
WHITEHALL BOOKS LIMITED, *Wellington, New Zealand*

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PRENTICE-HALL SOFTWARE SERIES
BRIAN W. KERNIGHAN, ADVISOR

for Dick and Joan Conn

Preface

Before adding another book to the plethora of books about Pascal, we had to convince ourselves that it was worth the effort, that we were not reinventing the wheel. In our own work, for a long time, both of us have needed a complete and unified description of UCSD Pascal. Until now, there has been none.

This book addresses virtually all users of UCSD Pascal -- from the programmer who would learn Pascal, and the beginner who needs a reference, to the expert.

We have not tried to teach programming. That would require a radically different organization. The motivations to write a UCSD Pascal reference were, to us at least, more immediate.

UCSD Pascal is a language we have enjoyed using. Its embodiment of the concepts of structured programming makes it simple and useful. We believe in well-structured program development, and our comments and advice will make that clear. But we have no interest in being doctrinaire; we don't want programmers to follow dogma; we want them to write correct and viable programs. Neither Pascal nor structured programming is a culmination of the programmer's art; in time we expect to see still more powerful developments. But it will be a very long time before the full potential of Pascal is explored, and the techniques of its use fully mastered.

With those attitudes in mind, we hope that the present volume will be a useful tool for many users, for many years.

We are glad to be able to offer our thanks to a large number of people:

Al Irvine, for instigating the project and providing the environment for its completion;

All those who reviewed the manuscript, or portions of it: Gail and Paul Anderson, Winsor Brown, Rich Gleaves, Rick Grunsky, Sharon Koehler, Tom Marrs, Mark Overgaard, David Reisner, and Dale Sevier;

Niklaus Wirth, for starting it all; Roger Sumner, for his contributions to UCSD Pascal; and the community of Pascal users "without whom all of this would not have been necessary;"

Finally, all of those people who have offered friendship and encouragement. Most will be as pleased to see this book in print as the authors themselves!

DAUGHTER: Daddy, why do things get in a muddle?
FATHER: What do you mean? Things? Muddle?
DAUGHTER: Well, people spend a lot of time tidying things, but they never seem to spend time muddling them. Things just seem to get in a muddle by themselves. And then people have to tidy them up again.

Gregory Bateson
in Steps to an Ecology of Mind

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