

Introduction

This folder contains a version of CP/M 2.2 for the Altair that does not require a disk controller. Instead, disk transfers are done through the second port on an 88-2SIO serial interface board and disk images are served from a PC. The server on the PC is the same server program that works with the Altair FDC+ controller.

This CP/M is particularly well suited for use with Martin Eberhard's 88-2SIOJP board since it supports baud rates as high as 76.8K. At this rate, performance is as good or better than original Altair versions of CP/M from Lifeboat and Burcon. An original 88-2SIO can run at 19.2K baud – and this works – but it does feel slower than a disk system. See “2SIO at 19200” in this same folder.

Version 1.4 or newer of the FDC+ server must be used to support the slower baud rates for this version of CP/M. A copy of the server is in this same folder.

Using Serial Disk CP/M 2.2

The file “Serial CPM56K.dsk” is a bootable CP/M image sized for at least 56K of RAM. Load this into drive 0 of the server to boot. Unfortunately, this version of CP/M will not boot using the standard Altair disk boot loader typically in ROM at FF00. You can boot by using an Intel hex loader to load the file BOOT.HEX into RAM and then jumping to zero, or you can use ROMBOOT.ASM to create a boot ROM at the correct address for your system.

The file “Monitor with boot.hex” contains ALTMON at F800, the serial CP/M boot loader at FC00, the Altair Turnkey Monitor at FD00, followed by Martin Eberhard's enhanced versions of MBL and DBL at FE00 and FF00. This is a great combo to stick into a 2716 (or written to both halves of a 2732) and inserted into the F800-FFFF socket of a CompuPro RAM17 or similar board that uses 2K static RAM chips. You can boot from this monitor with the “R” (ROM) command which jumps to the ROM at FC00, or you can “J”UMP to FC00 to boot.

You can mount any of the standard 8” Altair disk images (size will be 330K) as additional drives. If you want to make any of those other disks bootable, run SYSGEN to copy the boot image from drive A, or run MOVCPM2S followed by SYSGEN to put the boot tracks on a different drive. MOVCPM2S also allows you to change the location of CP/M for a system with more or less RAM than the 56K image provided.

Most any program on Altair disk images will execute properly when running under this serial disk CP/M. However, any programs that access the disk controller directly will not work. This includes format programs (FORMAT, AFORMAT) and the ACOPY high-speed disk copy program.