

How to get the CP/M file transfer program “PCGET” onto an Altair CP/M system for the first time.

The program “PCGET” is used to transfer a file from a PC to a local CP/M file system. The version of PCGET discussed here is specifically coded to transfer files onto an Altair 8800 CP/M system over the console serial port on a 2SIO board.

Once PCGET is on the CP/M system, subsequent file transfer is simple. However, getting PCGET onto the CP/M machine to begin with is the classic chicken and egg quandary.

Using CP/M’s DDT debugger and a terminal emulator program like “Tera-Term,” the procedure below loads PCGET onto the CP/M system for the first time. This procedure assumes the serial port is set for 9600 baud. The terminal emulator used must have the ability to send text files with a delay per character or a delay per line.

Operator entries are shown below in red.

```
A>  
A>DDT  
DDT VERS 2.2  
-
```

Assuming Tera-Term, use the “Setup->Serial Port...” menu option to set the transmit delay for “msec/line” to 10. Then send the file “PCGET.DDT” using simple ASCII transfer. When the transfer completes, the A> prompt will be displayed. Immediately save the file as shown:

```
A>SAVE 3 PCGET.COM
```

Verify PCGET works. Might as well upload the PCPUT program!

```
A>PCGET PCPUT.COM  
Send the file now using the XMODEM protocol...  
  
Transfer Complete  
  
A>PCPUT  
  
PCPUT Ver 1.0  
Usage: PCPUT file.ext  
  
A>
```