Your Source is Changing

PxPlus 2016 (v13)



Your Source is Changing

Environments have changed

As should the way you handle your source





Your Source is Changing

Your source is precious – Protect it



Major Topics

- Review program structure
- Program files revisited
- Securing program source and execution
- Migrating to text source files
- Source control systems
- New ED+ source editor
- PxPlus 2017 program changes



Review Program Structure

What is a program made of?



Program Structure

- A program consists of multiple lines of executable code
 - Each line gets converted and executed as Pseudo code
 - Internally line consists of line number followed by Pseudo code
 - This Pseudo code is interpreted by PxPlus
 - Using Pseudo code provides portability between platforms
 - Pseudo code contains tokenized program
 - Each syntactical unit converted to token
 - Variable syntax units such as labels and variable names are encoded into Pseudo code



Program Structure

- Sample Pseudo code
 - Take the statement:

```
0010 IF A = 123 THEN GOSUB MyLabel
```

As Pseudo code this becomes:

```
10 IF A = 123 THEN GOSUB

$000A$ + $B5$ + $0101$+"A" + $27$ + $0B007B$ + $B3$ +

MyLabel (End)

$0A07$+"MyLabel"+$FF$
```



Program Structure

- Program can be reconstructed from Pseudo code
 - PxPlus contains functionality to recreate a "listable" program statement from Pseudo code
 - Not necessarily an exact match to original input
 - Pseudo code omits some noise words such as LET and THEN
 - Spacing not preserved

What this means is, the code you create to run your application can be used to recreate the source.



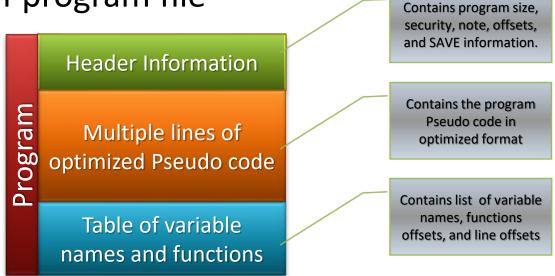
What is in a Program File?



- Program files contain 'optimized' Pseudo code
 - Replaces the following:
 - Variable names with logical indices
 - Every variable is assigned a sequential number in program code
 - Statement references (numbers and labels) with direct offsets
 - Adds a table of function definitions

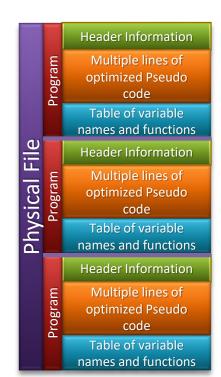
Improves performance by minimizing search times and reducing code size

Physical layout of program file





- PxPlus has built-in version control
 - Single physical program file may contain multiple versions of a program.
 - Number of versions controlled by '+R' system parameter (default = 5)
 - PxPlus only loads 'current' version into memory
 - Each program has a version number
 - Version number has a Major/Minor value





- How to access prior versions
 - *IT shows prior versions
 - Allows extraction to new file
 - Provides compare to prior versions
 - Command line utilities
 - RECALL to load prior versions
 - VER allows removal and cleanup of prior versions
 - Used to remove prior/interim versions prior release
 - Provides version number management



Securing Your Programs

How to keep your program source secure?



Securing Your Programs

- Programs can be secured by adding a password
 - Password protected programs:
 - Cannot be listed or edited without entering the password
 - Have contents (lines and variables) encrypted
 - Invalid password requests are progressively delayed
 - Helps to prevent 'guessing' password
 - Can be loaded and run on any system
 - Does not truly prevent piracy of application code



- Programs can also be secured using reseller supplied encryption key
 - Reseller key controls access to programs
 - Controls if programs can be loaded, executed, listed or edited
 - Controls if new key-encrypted programs can be created
 - Key can have an expiry date
 - Twenty-five (25) application specific flags also provided
 - Same logic used for PxPlus Package control
 - Keys are generated/controlled by software supplier
 - May be used to prevent piracy of application code

Migrating Your Source to Text

How to use text files to maintain your source.



Migrating Source to Text Files

- PxPlus can LOAD / SAVE programs as text files
 - Issue LOAD, RUN, CALL or PERFORM of text file
 - System will automatically convert program to Pseudo code
 - Code will NOT be optimized

- Saving program code to text file regenerates list format
 - Optionally, basic formatting will apply
 - Password and any owner encryption information will be lost
 - Only one version will be maintained on text file



Migrating Source to Text Files

- Text source can be used internally during development
 - Allows ANY external editor to be used
 - Examples: NOTEPAD, Ultra-edit, Eclipse
 - Text files preserve white space and structural indentation
 - Can convert to true 'program files' prior release
 - Use *PG.CNV utility to convert Text-to-Program and vice-versa
- Using source text allows use of Source Control Systems



Migrating Source to Text Files

- Typically source text programs don't have line numbers
 - Here are some of the PROs and CONs

PRO	CON
Line insertion anywhere	Cannot just send replacement lines to PASTE into code
Minimizes tendency for Spaghetti code	Consistent line number between updates for error reporting
Avoids line insertions conflicting with exist line references	
No need to renumber to make space	
Avoids 'Cluttered' lines caused by trying to avoid line insertion	
Programs are easier to read	
Forces use of line labels thus improving self documented code	
Modern technique easier for new programmers	



Source Control Systems

Why should you use a Source Control System?



Source Control Systems

- Advantages of a Source Control System
 - Provides tracking of program changes
 - Records who made which change to what, when, and why
 - Enables easy comparison of older versions
 - Allows rollback to prior version
 - Enables multiple programmers to work on same program at same time
 - Updates to programs can be merged automatically
 - Repository can be kept off-site for backup
 - Tools available to access repository via the internet

Source Control Systems

PVX Plus Technologies uses
Apache Subversion (SVN)

- In-house setup:
 - Built-in PxPlus SVN interfaces
 - Direct hooks found in Nomads and *IT editor
 - Tortoise SVN for Windows interface



The New ED+ Source Editor

What can it do for you?



- New Source editor in PxPlus 2016
 - Based on the open source ACE editor

https://ace.c9.io/

- Supports both Windows and Web based development
- Includes 34 different themes and PxPlus syntax highlighting
- Designed to edit programs in SOURCE form
 - Does support program files



- Launching the Editor
 - Command line

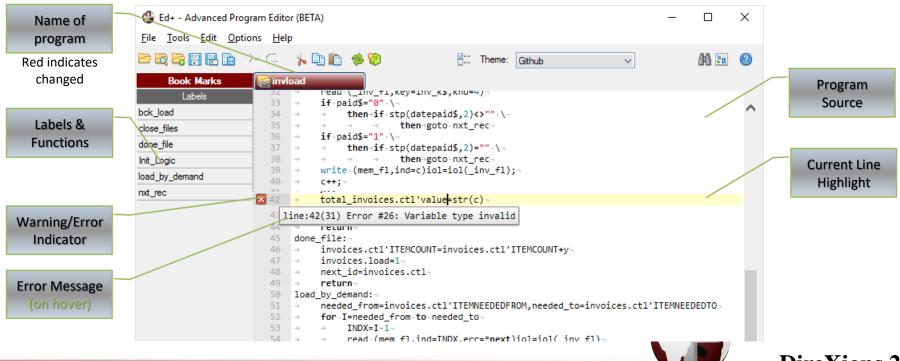
Call program

ed+ program

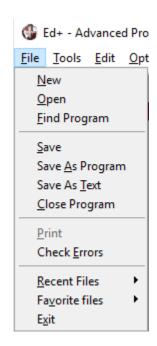
CALL "*ace/editor", "program"

- Where program is the name of the program to edit:
 - If text file, it will be opened
 - If SVN controlled program, SVN source will be opened
 - If program file, system will look for source file program.pxprg in same directory

The ED+ screen layout

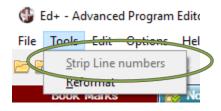


- Menu bar selection: File
 - Ability to open new or existing file
 - Find file open uses standard program search
 - Can save program as program or text file
 - Force a check for errors
 - Preserves last 10 files opened
 - Allows saving up to 10 favorite programs





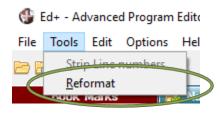
- Menu bar selection: Tools
 - Strip Line numbers
 - Removes all line number references and replaces with statement labels
 - Generated labels LBL_nnnnn where nnnnn is original line number



Uses logical labels of *SAME and *NEXT where viable



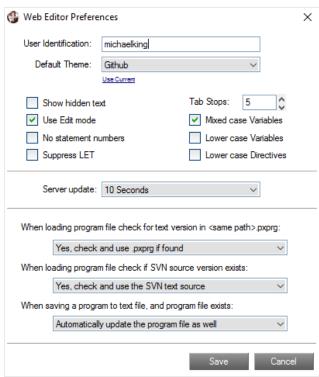
- Menu bar selection: Tools
 - Reformat
 - Applies indentation based on structure
 - TAB characters used to indent logic
 - Works on whole program to assure proper indentation



- Only available for non-line numbered programs
- Indentation lost if result saved to PROGRAM file



- Menu bar selection: Options
 - Preferences
 - Allows setting userid for use on WEB
 - Defines theme for display
 - Show hidden text shows tabs and spaces
 - Defines TAB stops (default 5)



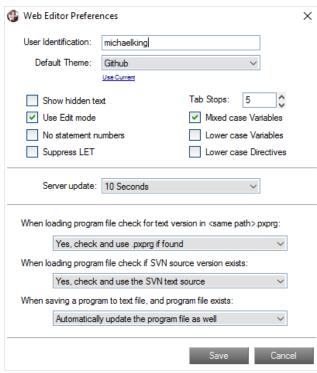


- Menu bar selection: Options
 - Preferences continued:
 - Program source display options same as *IT
 - Edit mode

- Mixed case variables
- No stmt numbers
- Lower case variables

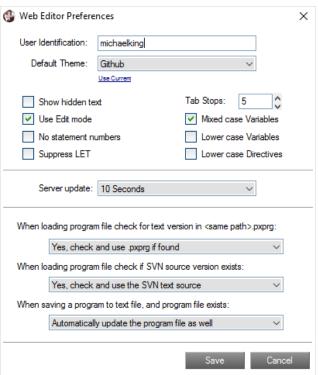
Suppress LET

- Lower case directives
- Server update frequency defines how often auto-save is done



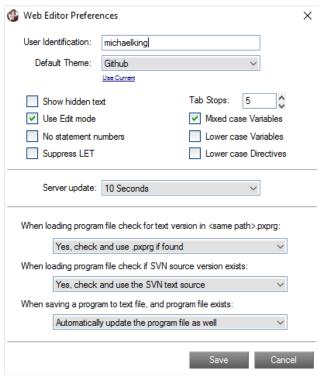


- Menu bar selection: Options
 - Preferences continued:
 - When loading program file, check if text .pxprg also exists
 - Yes, check and use .pxprg if found
 - No, don't check for presence of .pxprg
 - Ask which to use if ,pxprg is present



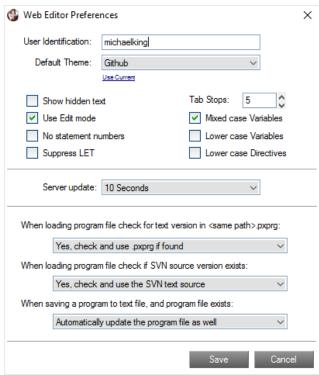


- Menu bar selection: Options
 - Preferences continued:
 - When loading program file, check if SVN source exists
 - Yes, check and use the SVN text source
 - No, edit program object code and let OS update SVN
 - Ask which to use if SVN text source exists



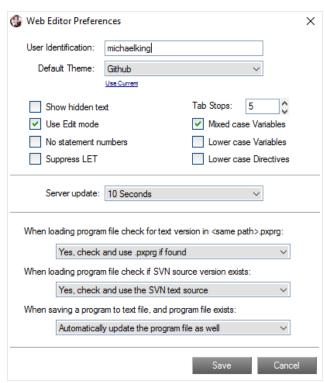


- Menu bar selection: Options
 - Preferences continued:
 - File save rules when saving to text and program file also exists
 - Automatically update the program file as well
 - Don't update the program file
 - Ask if you also want the program file updated



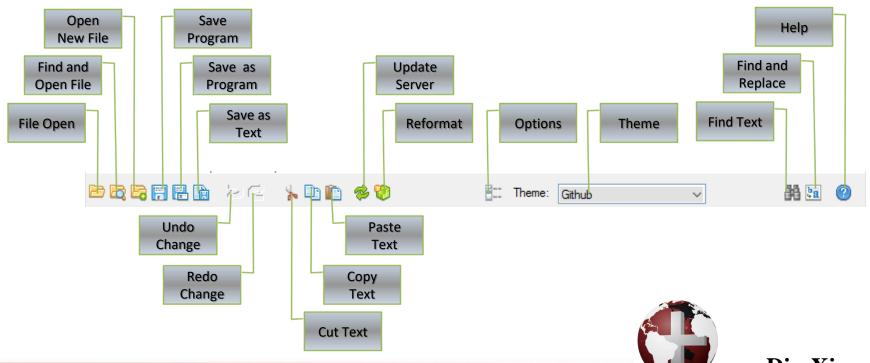


- Menu bar selection: Options
 - Preferences continued:
 - Preferences will be saved in
 - INI when used on Windows
 - localstore when used in browser





The ED+ tool bar



- Under development
 - Print functionality
 - PxPlus syntax highlighting improvements
 - Macro libraries like *IT
 - Ability to add passwords and owner codes
 - Version recall from Program file
 - Prior/Next error
 - SVN Interfaces

Planned for 2017



PxPlus 2017 Program Changes

How are we making coding easier?



Planned For PxPlus 2017

- Changes coming to language
 - Automatic variable type conversions
 - System will determine type needed to perform function

NEW Syntax	Effectively will become
X\$ = 1.23	X\$ = STR(1.23)
X = 1.23 + QOH\$	X = 1.23 + NUM(QOH\$)
MSGBOX "Client owes "+balance	MSGBOX "Client owes "+STR(balance)

- Using NEW syntax will require you to use PxPlus 2017
 - Syntax will <u>NOT</u> be backwards compatible

Planned For PxPlus 2017

- New option for SAVE to strip comments
 - Reduces memory required to load programs
 - Will improve execution speed
 - Help obfuscate your logic

- New encryption algorithms for programs
- Option to password program with NO option to remove password

Additional Resources

The help link(s) below refer to the current on-line help pages. The functionality may have been further updated since the PxPlus 2016 (version 13) release.

- Projects & the IDE
- Ed+ Source Editor
- Adding Tasks to Project
- Project Maintenance

