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VISI SERIES™  
ON  
ETHER SERIES™

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User's Guide  
Supplement

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VISICORP™

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VISI SERIES™  
ON  
ETHER SERIES™

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User's Guide  
Supplement

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by  
3Com Corporation  
and  
VisiCorp



VISICORP™



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# Introduction

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A VisiSeries™ program installed in an EtherSeries™ network can be shared among many IBM® Personal Computer users in an EtherSeries network. Both IBM Personal Computers and XTs can access VisiSeries programs located on 3Com™ EtherSeries servers. This combination of programs gives you:

- Convenience—once installed, the VisiCalc® IV, VisiWord™ and other VisiSeries programs can be accessed without floppy disks.
- Speed—loading and using a VisiSeries program from a 3Com network server is faster than from a floppy disk; floppy disk shuffling delays are completely eliminated.
- Savings—reducing the need for local printers or hard disks also lowers costs, and costs are amortized among many users.
- Individual configuration—the VisiSeries programs allow each user to specify personal configuration information; the VisiWord program, for example, allows you to set a preferred default page format and default printer type.

Once the VisiSeries software is installed on the 3Com server, all VisiSeries programs are available simultaneously to all users of that server.

## HOW TO USE THIS SUPPLEMENT

This *User's Guide Supplement* acquaints you with the installation and operation of VisiSeries programs in the EtherSeries environment. The VisiCalc IV and VisiWord programs are the first of many VisiSeries applications that will be in the EtherSeries resource-sharing environment.

## 2 Introduction

This supplement assumes that you are familiar with the EtherSeries environment. You should be able to answer the following questions before proceeding to the remaining sections of this supplement:

- What is a *drive id*?
- What is an EtherSeries *user*?
- What is an EtherSeries *volume*?
- What is an EtherSeries *private volume*?
- What does it mean to *link* a volume to a *drive id*?
- What does it mean to *link* an EtherSeries Printer?
- What does the *login* batch file do?

If you cannot answer these questions, consult the following references:

- *EtherSeries User's Guide*—for general instructions and terminology on how to use the EtherSeries system.
- *IBM Disk Operating System* manual, Version 2.00—for detailed description of disk and memory management commands and backup/restore procedures.
- *EtherShare Administrator's Guide*—for detailed installation and maintenance instructions for your server.

The keys that you type appear in the manual in **boldface** type. If the first letter of a command appears in **bold**, it means that you must type that letter to enter that command. For some keys, such as Esc, the special font **ESC** will be used. This means that you should press that key, not type the sequence of letters.

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# Setup and Software Installation

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This section is organized so that you only need to read the portions that apply to your situation. Go to the first step that applies to you and continue from there.

1. The VisiSeries program must be *installed* on the system volume of your network server's disk. If it has not been installed yet, turn to the section "Installing Your VisiSeries Program on the SYS.SYS2 Volume."
2. Before you can use the VisiSeries program, you must have an EtherSeries *user name* assigned to you. If you do not already have a user name, turn to the section "Creating a New User Name."
3. If your application data will be located on the network server, you need a *network data volume* for your data files. If you do not already have a data volume, turn to the section "Creating a New Network Data Volume."
4. If you will be using a VisiSeries application that has private configuration files, such as the VisiWord printer defaults, you need to specify a *configuration volume*. If you do not already have such a volume, turn to the section "Creating a New Configuration Volume."

If all of the above installation and setup steps are completed, turn to the section "Using the VisiSeries Programs."

## INSTALLING YOUR VISISERIES™ PROGRAM ON THE SYS.SYS2 VOLUME

### Minimum Hardware and Software Requirements

You install your VisiSeries program on an IBM Personal Computer or XT that is separate from the target EtherSeries network server. The following minimum hardware and software components are required:

- User's personal computer
  - IBM Personal Computer or XT
  - Double-sided disk drive in drive A or B
  - 192K of memory
  - 80-column graphics or monochrome display
  - 3Com EtherLink adapter
  - DOS 2.0
  - EtherSeries/DOS 2.0 Boot Disk
  
- Server
  - IBM Personal Computer (or XT) or 3Com Network Server
  - DOS 2.0 (if IBM Personal Computer or XT)
  - EtherShare server software for disk sharing
  - EtherPrint server software for printer sharing and print spooling (optional)
  - Enough unused space in the SYS.SYS2 volume for the VisiSeries program (300,000 bytes is sufficient for the VisiCalc IV program and VisiWord program combined)

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#### IMPORTANT

Make sure the server you install your VisiSeries application onto is the correct one. Each VisiSeries program disk can be installed on only one server. Once installed, the program is permanently associated with that server by way of its Ethernet address. If you need to move the program to another server of the same type, you must move the EtherLink adapter card with it.

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## INSTALLATION STEPS

Three steps are required to install the VisiSeries program: 1) log in to the server, 2) confirm sufficient disk space, and 3) install the application program.

### Step 1: Log in to the Server

- a. Locate an IBM PC or XT which meets the minimum hardware and software requirements for a "user's personal computer" specified previously. The "user's personal computer" which you use for installation **MUST** be separate from the server system; both, however, must be connected to the same Ethernet.
- b. Put the EtherSeries/DOS 2.0 Boot disk into drive A of the IBM PC and reboot by typing **CTRL-ALT-DEL**. If the system asks for Date and Time, press **↵** twice. The system displays "A>" when it is ready.
- c. Log in using the name of the server on which you want to install the VisiSeries program. For example, if the name of the server is FINANCE, type **es login finance** **↵**. If a password is required you will be prompted for it at this point; enter the proper password and press **↵**.
- d. Link the SYS2 volume to drive D by typing **es link sys2 d:↵**.
- e. Switch the default drive to D by typing **d: ↵**.

Now that you are logged in to the server, continue to step 2.

### Step 2: Confirm Sufficient Disk Space

You must confirm that sufficient disk space is available on your SYS.SYS2 volume for the VisiSeries application programs. You calculate how much unused space you have on disk using the CHKDSK command. The CHKDSK command is explained in the "IBM Disk Operating System" manual.

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#### Note:

You may have already installed the VisiSeries program. In this case you already have sufficient space on disk; the earlier version will be overwritten by the new installation.

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The disk space needed on SYS.SYS2 for VisiCalc IV and VisiWord is as follows:

VisiCalc IV program — 130,000 bytes  
VisiWord program — 160,000 bytes

If insufficient unused space exists on SYS.SYS2, you will have to make the SYS2 volume larger. To do this consult "Making the SYS2 Volume Larger" in the "How to Customize Your Environment" section later in this supplement. Otherwise continue to step 3.

### Step 3: Install the Application Program

- a. If your system has a double-sided double-density disk in drive A, then put the VisiSeries Installation Disk into drive A and type **a:** . The system displays "A>" when it is ready. If your system has a double-sided double-density disk only in drive B, then put the VisiSeries Installation Disk into drive B and type **b:** . The system displays "B>" when it is ready.
- b. Type **install d:** . You will see the message "Checking, please wait...". After a short time, a message such as "Installing VisiWord from A: onto D:/..." will appear. You will then hear the disk whir while the necessary files are copied from the disk onto the SYS2 volume.
- c. When the procedure is finished, a message appears such as, "VisiWord installation is complete." Remove the VisiSeries disk and store it in a safe place in case reinstallation is ever necessary.

Turn to the next section, "Creating a New User Name."

## CREATING A NEW USER NAME

If you have not been assigned a user name, refer to section 4 of the 3Com EtherSeries User's Guide for detailed instruction on how to create a new EtherSeries user name. In brief, this is what you do:

1. Put the EtherSeries/DOS 2.0 Boot disk into drive A of the IBM PC and reboot by typing **CTRL-ALT-DEL**. If the system asks for Date and Time, type  twice. The system displays "A>" when it is ready.
2. Log in using the name of the server you want to use. For example, if the name of your server is FINANCE, type **es login finance** . If a password is required you are prompted for it at this point; enter the proper password and press .

3. Choose a name of up to eight characters for your login name. (You might consult other people at your site to see if any user naming conventions have been established.) For example, if you choose the name SMITH, you type `es ucreate smith`
4. Type `es logout`  to log out from the server.

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**Note:**

You may wish to customize your personal EtherSeries/DOS Boot Disk for an environment tailored to your personal needs. This is discussed in the section "How to Customize Your Environment" later in this supplement.

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Turn to the next section, "Creating a New Network Data Volume."

## CREATING A NEW NETWORK DATA VOLUME

As you work with the VisiSeries programs, you will need a data volume to store your files of VisiCalc worksheets and VisiWord documents. You can continue to use floppy disks for this purpose. But if you wish to use a network volume instead, you will need to create one. To create a new network data volume:

1. Put the EtherSeries/DOS 2.0 Boot disk into drive A of the IBM PC and reboot by typing `CTRL-ALT-DEL`. If the system asks for Date and Time, type  twice. The system displays "A>" when it is ready.
2. Log in to your server. If your user name is SMITH, for example, type `login smith` . When you are logged in, the system will display "D>," indicating that SYS.SYS2 has been linked to drive D.
3. Choose a name for your data volume. For example, you can use the name DATA. Also choose what size you would like your data volume to be. It must be large enough to hold the application data files you intend to create, but not so large to be wasteful of server disk space. If, for example, you choose to create a volume named DATA, with 500,000 Bytes of space, then type `es create data /500kb` .

**Note:**

You may wish to customize your personal EtherSeries/DOS disk so that it automatically links your data volume at the time you log in. See "Automatic Log In" in the section "How to Customize Your Environment" later in this supplement.

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Turn to the next section "Creating a New Configuration volume."

## CREATING A NEW CONFIGURATION VOLUME

If you plan to use any of the VisiSeries application programs that have private configuration data, such as the VisiWord program, you must create a volume specifically for this purpose. To create a configuration volume:

1. Put the EtherSeries/DOS 2.0 Boot disk into drive A of the IBM PC and reboot by typing **CTRL-ALT-DEL**. If the system asks for Date and Time, type **↵** twice. The system displays "A>" when it is ready.
2. Log in to your server. For example, if your user name is SMITH, type **login smith ↵**. When you are logged in, the system displays "D>". This indicates that SYS.SYS2 is linked to D, the default drive.
3. The name of your configuration volume must be CONFIG. You may choose the size you would like your configuration volume to be, but 64KB (the minimum size volume) should be sufficient. When you have selected the size, create the volume by typing **es create config /64kb ↵**.

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**Note:**

If all of the disk space on your server is already in use you may want to use an already existing volume. See "Conserving Server Disk Space" in the section "How to Customize Your Environment" later in this supplement.

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Turn to the section, "Using the VisiSeries Programs."

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# Using the VisiSeries™ Programs

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After you install a VisiSeries program on your server, it is easy to use. All functions described in the VisiSeries User's Guide are available. The EtherSeries functions are also available. You should familiarize yourself with the following three requirements before you use the VisiSeries programs:

1. Network volumes can be either private (/PRIV) or public (/PUB) and must be linked *before* running your VisiSeries program. Shared volumes—those with read/write access for multiple users—are not supported. *Shared volumes (/SHAR) should not be used under any circumstances as you will risk loss or damage of data without warning.*

To link the private volume named DATA to drive F, type **es link f: data** ↵.

2. EtherSeries printer links must be established *before* running your VisiSeries program. The standard LOGIN batch file establishes a link between your PRN printer port and Printer 1 on the server (PRN and LPT1 are synonymous).
3. Graphics can be printed on an EtherSeries printer if you establish the link in /PLOT mode. A consequence of using /PLOT mode is that you must unlink the printer before actual printing can begin.

To link your PRN printer port to the graphics printer on your server, type **ep link /plot** ↵.

To unlink your PRN printer port from the graphics printer and thus initiate printing, type **ep unlink** ↵.

Consult the EtherPrint section of the EtherSeries User's Guide for more explanation on how to utilize the print spooling modes.

## SIMPLE START AND EXIT SEQUENCES

Before running your VisiSeries program for the first time, carefully check the following:

- You are logged in under your user name.
- D is your default drive (your system displays "D>").
- SYS.SYS2 is linked to drive D.
- Your VisiSeries program is installed on SYS.SYS2.
- Your configuration volume, named CONFIG, is created (it need not be linked, and no configuration volume is required for VisiCalc IV).
- Your network data volume is linked to drive F.
- Your network printer is linked to LPT1.

If any of the above conditions are not in effect, turn to either "Setup and Software Installation" or "How to Customize Your Environment."

To start and exit the VisiCalc IV program, type:

```
vce ↵
```

```
/sqy
```

To start and exit the VisiWord program, type:

```
vwe ↵
```

```
create <ESC> exit exit
```

## VISICALC® IV PROCEDURES

A demonstration of the capabilities of the VisiCalc IV program is installed on SYS.SYS2. To see the demonstration:

1. To load VisiCalc IV, type **vce** .
2. To load the demonstration, type **/\*usldemo** .
3. To run the demonstration, press function key **F1**.

The instructions for the demonstration are self-explanatory.

To print textual or numeric information on an EtherSeries printer, use the **/PP** command.

To print graphics information on an EtherSeries IBM graphics printer:

1. Make sure the printer is linked in **/PLOT** mode by typing **ep link /plot**  before running the VisiCalc IV program.
2. Generate the graphics display.
3. Use the following graphics print commands:
  - **F**—to advance the printer to the top of the next page
  - **P**—to print the graph
  - **L**—to advance the printer one line

A recommended procedure is to issue an initial **F** command, followed by one or more **P** and **L** commands, terminated by a final **F** command.

4. Exit VisiCalc IV and type **ep unlink**  to initiate printing. If you plan to do more printing, then you can type **ep link /plot**  instead.

To access data on a network data volume, such as filename **MODELS.VC** on drive **F**, type the command followed by the device identifier and then the filename; for example, type **/slf:models.vc** .

## VISIWORD™ PROCEDURES

The VisiWord program can be run by typing either

`vwe`  or `vwe filename` .

You can learn the VisiWord program by following the procedures outlined in the QuickStart™ Course included with the *VisiWord User's Guide*. More advanced usage can be seen by following the procedures in "Chapter 7: Sample Applications" of the *VisiWord User's Guide*.

Make sure that a data volume is linked to F, and the link to the appropriate printer is established before you use the QuickStart Course. If you create a document, but mistakenly forget to link a data volume, you can still use your floppy drives to temporarily store the document before you exit VisiWord and perform the necessary link.

As shipped from the factory, the VisiWord program comes preconfigured with the following defaults:

Default Data Drive	F
Default Spool Drive	F
Default Print Path	LPT1
Default Printer Model	IBM 80 CPS Matrix Printer

You can override any or all of these defaults using standard functions in the VisiWord program. (In the *VisiWord User's Guide* see "Chapter 3—Unit 11:Using Your Own Startup Format," "Chapter 6 - Unit 5:Changing Printer Format Specifications," and "Appendix F:Changing VisiWord Startup Settings.")

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# How to Customize Your Environment

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Here are some hints on how to set up your EtherSeries environment so that it is easy to use and tips on what to do if your particular configuration doesn't quite match what is expected.

a. Automatic Log In

You can customize your personal EtherSeries/DOS Boot disk to automatically log in and link your standard volumes whenever you boot. You will be asked only to type your password, if you have one. If your user name is SMITH:

1. Put your EtherSeries/DOS Boot disk into drive A and reboot by typing **CTRL-ALT-DEL**. The system displays "A>" when ready.

2. Type **copy login.bat autoexec.bat** 

3. Using an editor, such as EDLIN, modify the line in AUTOEXEC.BAT that reads

```
"es login %1; link d: sys.sys2 /np"
```

to read

```
"es login smith; link d: sys.sys2 /np"
```

4. Application programs like the VisiWord program assume that data files are found on drive F. To automatically link the data volume, modify the LOGIN line above to read:

```
"es login smith; link d: sys.sys2 /np; link f: data /np"
```

b. Restoring VisiWord Configuration to SYS.SYS2 Defaults

At any time you can restore all your private VisiWord defaults to those supplied on SYS.SYS2 by deleting the following three files from your configuration volume, CONFIG:

E:PATHS.VW

E:CONTROL.VW

E:DEFAULTS.VW

c. Conserving Server Disk Space

On servers where disk space is at a premium, you may find it necessary to use a volume which already exists instead of creating a separate CONFIG volume. For example, if EtherMail™ is used on your server, all users already have a volume called INBOX. If you edit the VWE.BAT file, for example, in SYS.SYS2, replacing "CONFIG" with "INBOX", then your VisiSeries configuration information and EtherMail files can be combined on a single volume.

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**Note:**

As in other procedures which modify information on SYS.SYS2, you must first log in as the name of the server; e.g., FINANCE)

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d. Installation into DOS Directories

The installation procedures allow you to install VisiSeries programs into DOS 2.0 directories on SYS.SYS2. To install VisiCalc IV into the directory /VISICALC on drive D, do the following:

1. Log in to the server following Step 1 of the installation procedure described earlier in this supplement.
2. Confirm that sufficient disk space exists by following Step 2 of the installation procedure.
3. Type `mkdir visicalc`  to create the directory on drive D.
4. Follow Steps 3a and 3c of the installation procedure, but type `install d: \visicalc`  instead of Step 3b.

e. Making the SYS2 Volume Larger

To make the SYS.SYS2 volume larger, you must back up the volume, delete it, recreate it to be larger, and then restore the saved files. This process may take an hour or more:

1. Collect enough formatted disks (preferably double sided, 9 sectors per track) to hold the entire system volume.
2. Reboot from an EtherSeries/DOS 2.0 Boot disk and log in as the name of the server; e.g., FINANCE.

3. Type **d:**  followed by **\chdir**  to make sure you are at the root directory on drive D.
4. Type **verify on** , then **backup \*.\* a: /s** . You will be prompted to insert blank disks into drive A one at a time. As BACKUP fills up each disk, you should label the disk with the disk number indicated to you by the system.
5. When BACKUP is finished, insert your EtherSeries/DOS disk into drive A and type **a:**  to set the default drive back to A. The system displays the "A>" prompt again.
6. Unlink the SYS2 volume from drive D by typing **es unlink sys2** . The system displays "SYS2 unlinked from D."
7. Make sure no one else is using the SYS2 volume, then type **es del sys2**  to delete it.
8. Choose a new size for the SYS2 volume and recreate it to be that size. It is a good idea to make SYS2 25% larger than you need now, so that you will have extra space the next time you want to add applications to the system volume. If, for example, you decide that one megabyte is the right size for the SYS2 volume, type **es create sys2 /1mb** .
9. Now type **es link sys2 d:**  to link SYS2 back to drive D.
10. Insert a DOS 2.0 disk containing the RESTORE program in drive B and type **b:restore a: d: /S** . Insert the BACKUP disks one at a time, as directed by the RESTORE program, until the entire system volume has been restored.
11. Insert your EtherSeries/DOS Boot disk into drive A and type **es unlink sys2** .
12. Type **es mod sys2 /pub**  to make SYS2 PUBLIC once again.
13. Type **es link sys2 d:**  to link SYS2 back to drive D.
14. Type **d:**  to make drive D be the default drive.

If you are doing this procedure as part of Step 2 of the installation procedure, then proceed to "Step 3: Install the Application Program" in the section "Installing Your VisiSeries Program on the SYS.SYS2 Volume" earlier in this supplement.



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# Error Messages

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This section lists error messages that may appear when you are attempting to install or run a VisiSeries program. An explanation is also given on how you can fix the problem or eliminate the error.

Cannot close xxxxxxxx.

The installation program cannot close a file. Either the destination volume is write protected, out of disk space, or the file system is damaged. Use CHKDSK to check, and use ERASE to delete some files; or run CHKDSK /F to repair the file system. Try installing the program again.

Cannot create the file xxxxxxxx.

The installation program cannot create a file. Either the destination volume is write protected, out of disk space, or the file system is damaged. Use CHKDSK to check, and use ERASE to delete some files; or run CHKDSK /F to repair the file system. Try installing the program again.

Cannot open the file xxxxxxxx for reading.

The installation program cannot open a file. Either the file is missing, or the file system is damaged. In either case you should return the application disk for replacement.

Cannot open the file xxxxxxxx.

The installation program cannot open a file. Either the file is missing, or the file system is damaged. In either case you should return the application disk for replacement.

Cannot read the file xxxxxxxx.

The installation program cannot read a file. This is most likely due to disk error. You should return the application disk for replacement.

Cannot write the file xxxxxxxx.

The installation program cannot write a file. Either the destination volume is write protected, out of disk space, or the file system is damaged. Use CHKDSK to check, and use ERASE to delete some files; or run CHKDSK /F to repair the file system. Try installing the program again.

Cannot write xxxxxxxx.

The installation program cannot write a file. Either the destination volume is write protected, out of disk space, or the file system is damaged. Use CHKDSK to check, and use ERASE to delete some files; or run CHKDSK /F to repair the file system. Try installing the program again.

Destination directory "xxxxxxx" must begin with a backslash (\).

The second parameter to the installation program did not begin with a backslash. This optional parameter specifies a destination directory on the destination volume. Try installing the program again with a directory name that begins with a backslash.

File xxxxxxxxxx is missing or read-only.

The installation program cannot read a file. This is most likely due to disk error. You should return the application disk for replacement.

INSTALL.COM is missing from the xxxxxxxx diskette in drive XX.

The installation program cannot read the file INSTALL.COM. This is most likely due to disk error. You should return the application disk for replacement.

Not ready error reading drive XX  
Abort, Retry, Ignore?

If this occurs while reading drive A, check to make sure the correct disk is inserted in A and the door is fully closed. If this occurs on drive D it is likely due to overload of your server. Wait a moment and type R to retry.

Please remove the tab from the write enable notch on the xxxxxxxx diskette in drive XX, then run INSTALL again.

The application disk is write protected. Remove the write protection tab from the disk and try installing the program again. This should only be necessary the first time you install the application.

This xxxxxxxx disk has already been installed on another server.

The application disk has been previously installed on a server with a different Ethernet address. The first time you install an application, the disk is tagged with the Ethernet address of the server you are logged into at the time of installation, and subsequent installations are successful only if the Ethernet address of the login server matches the original tag. You must either purchase another copy of the application software for this server, or change the Ethernet address of this server back to its original address by exchanging EtherLink adapters.

This xxxxxxxxx can only be installed on an EtherShare/XX server.

This application is meant to be installed on a different kind of server than the one you are attempting to use. You must purchase a copy of the application which is matched to the type of server you want to use.

Unrecoverable floppy disk read error.

The installation program has detected a disk error. You should return the application disk for replacement.

Unrecoverable installation error.

The installation program has detected a disk error. You should return the application disk for replacement.

Write protect error writing drive D  
Abort, Retry, Ignore?

This can happen during installation if someone has already logged in as the name of your server and linked to SYS.SYS2. Only the first owner who links to a public volume has write access to it. You must have the other person log out, and then you must log out and retry the installation procedure from the beginning.

XX is not a valid drive specifier. Valid drive specifiers are A:, B:, C:, D:, etc.

The first parameter to the installation program is not a valid drive id. This optional parameter specifies a destination volume on the server where the application files should be installed. Make sure that the correct volume, typically SYS.SYS2, is linked to the drive id you want, then try installing the program again using the correct drive id.

xxxxxxx loading has been aborted.  
Not authorized on the server you are logged into.

You tried to run a VisiSeries application that was either incorrectly installed, or installed onto a server other than the one you are logged into. Try logging into the server where the application is stored, and run it again. If it still fails, reinstall the application and try again.

xxxxxxx loading has been aborted.  
You must be logged in.

You tried to run a VisiSeries application without being logged in to any server. Log in to the appropriate server and try again.

You cannot use drive A: for your destination disk drive.

You must install your VisiSeries application onto an EtherSeries volume. Drive A is being used by the application disk and cannot have an EtherSeries volume linked to it, and is therefore prohibited as a destination drive id. Link the volume you would like to put the application into to drive D, and try again.

You must be logged in to an EtherSeries server to run INSTALL.

You tried to install a VisiSeries application without being logged in to any server. Log in to the appropriate server and try again. Remember that whatever server you are logged into at the time you install determines who may access this application, so choose your login server carefully.

# Reader's Critique

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Please tell us how you rate this manual in the following areas:

	Excellent (✓)	Good (✓)	Average (✓)	Fair (✓)	Poor (✓)
Completeness of information.					
Clarity of information.					
Organization of manual.					
Appearance of manual.					
Quantity of examples.					
Usefulness of examples.					
Quantity of photographs and illustrations.					
Appropriateness of photographs and illustrations.					
Degree to which this manual meets your expectations and needs.					
Appropriateness of the manual level to a person of your experience.					
Overall manual.					

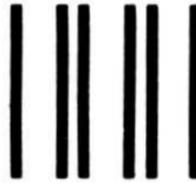
Your computer experience:  2 yrs or less  2-5 yrs  5 yrs +  
 Did you use the manual to learn the program?  Yes  No  
 I read  25%  50%  75%  100% of this manual.

Please specify, by page, any errors you found in this manual.

Please tell us for what application(s) you are using this program.

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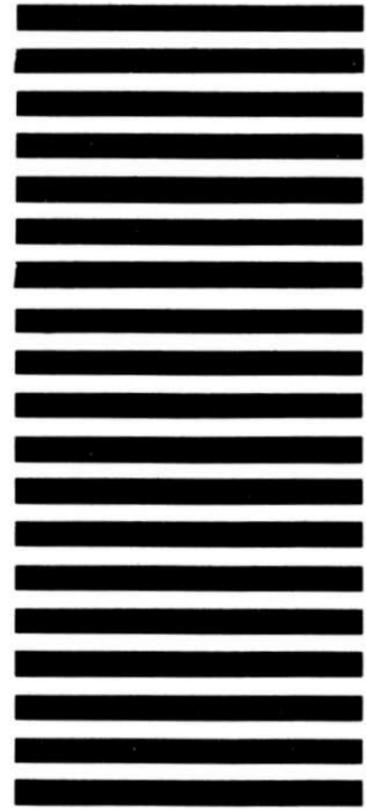
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