

# GBBS Pro News

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## Label Not Found

### Getting rid of that message is easier than it appears

By Douglas Granzow  
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(301) 549-2584

#### Label Not Found.

That's an error that, every now and then, pops up during the second pass of the compiler. These errors usually come in groups. And ACOS is right. It really can't find any of those labels. It doesn't mean they're not there, but ACOS can't find them. There are several ways you can accidentally hide those pesky labels.

First, for amateur ACOS programmers, labels are those words there in the far left column of the program listing. They aren't actual commands, but they provide a reference for a certain part of a program. They're like the line numbers used in BASIC, but a lot more meaningful and easier to remember when you're trying to GOTO or GOSUB.

Before you start looking for the errors below that cause Label Not Found errors, look for the most obvious mistakes of all: Label Doesn't Ex

ist. You might have accidentally left it out, or, more likely, you misspelled it in a GOTO or a GOSUB statement. Or you may have accidentally put a space in front of it.

The most common (and most annoying) indirect cause of Label Not Found errors is an extra or missing quote or apostrophe. Check your print statements. If one has apostrophes (') around it (rather than quotes (")) and has a contraction in it, such as

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See Where, page 8

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## Fun with a sector editor and GBBS 'Pro'

By Stephanie A. McGrath  
Sysop, Chameleon BBS; (713) 875-9868

So you're tired of seeing the BBS say the same thing over and over every time you jump in to chat with a user? You're bored with the ever-ordinary "Please wait" that shows up on the screen when you jump into executive control with a CTRL-V? Want to change the "Unable to Load External" message to something a little snappier?

Get out TWO blank disks, or one double-sided disk, and your favorite sector editor, and you're on your way. I use the boring old Copy II+ sector editor; I suppose any one will give similar results, and some others may be easier to use. Just grab one you're comfortable with, and get with the program.

Take disk number one, a completely blank disk, and format it. Then copy your fully configured ACOS.OBJ onto that disk. Do likewise with disk number two. Don't argue. Just make two copies. If you don't, you'll wish you had.

Now an assurance. If you're nervous about messing with your ACOS.OBJ, don't be. That's why you just made two copies of it. Even if you trash the first copy, you can always go back to the second copy. But have faith. You won't trash anything. Maybe.

OK. Now you put copy #1 in a really safe place some-

where, and you ignore it. You should not ever have to use it again, but if you do, you can always go back to it.

Ok. Crank up that sector editor. Since ACOS.OBJ is the only thing on the disk (if you followed the instructions, that is), you shouldn't have any problem finding it. It's right there after all the ProDOS stuff on track 0.

So let's look for something to change. "Sysop is on-line." Booooring. If you're using Copy II+, you want to S)earch for T)ext: Sysop is on-line.

Copy II+ found it for me and made my screen look something like this:

```
48- 2E AE FF 0D 0D 53 79 73 ....Sys
50- 6F 70 20 69 73 20 6F 6E opison
58- 2D 6C 69 6E 65 2E 2E 2E -line...
    Etc.
```

So we're in the right place! The question is, what IS all of this? Apparently, it's where the program goes to grab all of the messages that it sends. If you scroll up, using the "I", "J", "K" and "M" keys with Copy II+, then you'll see some error messages, and scrolling down you'll see some other messages. Any and all of these can be changed to fit your personality or the personality of your

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See Jump, page 2

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# Jump right in and edit your ACOS.OBJ!

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BBS. With some limitations, though.

Length, for example. Unless there's something I don't know about the sector editor (which isn't necessarily too far-fetched), you pretty much have to stay within the length of the message that is already in place. That is, you can't chance "Sysop is on-line" to "His Royal Majesty, the King of This Place, is here to talk to his lowly Subject." It just won't fit, pal.

It appears that when ACOS is searching for these little pieces of messages, it reads characters until it finds a  $\text{\textcircled{D}}$ : carriage return. It appears quite important that you leave those boogers alone.

When you're changing, keep in mind that we're talking in hexadecimal. If you're entering T)ext, you may not have to worry about it. Then again, if you have the same problems I did, you may find that when you enter "Sys" from the keyboard as T)ext, it puts a different set of Hex in there, and then when you try to chat, it doesn't print anything. The key is to enter everything in H)ex. That means get out your favorite ASCII chart (Page A-2 of the GBBS manual, for example), and go to it.

In addition to your error messages and the messages for chatting and executive mode, you can poke around and find all sorts of things to change. The top-of-screen "[ Page

] and "[ Exec ]" lines can apparently be changed, and a sector editor makes working on that top-of-screen stuff much easier. For example, if you want to redo the layout of device #9, you can search for "BP=" and get a screenful of what ACOS thinks should be at the top of the sysop's screen when every user logs on. Have yourself a blast.

But remember to back up and TEST OFTEN. You're messing with important code here. This is not like messing with program code, where you can just jump out after an error, find the error and recompile. It's much more dangerous and more likely to cause you headaches, and much harder to find one bad letter of hex than to find a syntax error in ACOS code. But that's why we made an extra backup anyway.

I am not convinced that you can really do any permanent damage to your OBJ if you follow the double-backup procedure. That is, continue to make double-backups of the new OBJ as you test each part, so you don't lose all your COOD changes just because you can't quite figure out which change is making the whole thing crash and burn.

Above all, do not be shy to do this! If you have never played with Hex or sector editors before, then this is a great way to learn more about ACOS and to lose some of that shyness about messing with machine-language that you don't understand.

Heck. If \*I\* can do it, anybody can.

## M&R Computing the Other Side



Welcome to 1988 and here's looking at any holiday that gives us time off from the real world, so we can catch up on our own private worlds.

### CMS Hard Drives

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(Hayes compatible)

1200 bps External	\$115
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We also have many other items available for you upon request. Our full catalog will be available soon. Call one of our boards and get on our mailing list.

Here's Wishing You and Your BBS much Happiness and Success in 1988!

Where to find us 

# M&R Computing presents the STAT.SYSTEM

<p>With the Stat.system segment, you can maintain your users':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Real name</li> <li>Address</li> <li>City State Zip</li> <li>Computer Type</li> <li>Birthdate</li> <li>Occupation</li> </ul>	<p>With stat.system installed, you can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Print mailing labels of users</li> <li>Purge old users from the system</li> <li>List or Search both user files by computer, birthday, occupation &amp; More</li> <li>Build an Appleworks-readable database file with information from both the users file and the user.stats files.</li> </ul>
<p>Magic Bag    201-988-9489    PcP  Caddy Shack   201-920-2353    PcP                    3/12/24 bps  Full support online and off.</p>	<p>Appleworks (c) Apple Computer  GBBS v1.3 (c) L&amp;L Productions  Stat.System (c) M&amp;R Computing</p>

Stat.system is designed to help YOU the sysop. It takes over many functions of the GBBS v1.3 system segment as well as adding a few extras to make it even more powerful.

The request file has been redesigned to incorporate both the "User.stats" file and the GBBS user file to show a more complete profile of the user requesting access to your fine system.

Purge Old Users from your system by a given date right from the Stat.System instead of rebooting the GBBS configure disk. Protect certain users who have one (or two) sysop-definable flags.

Print mailing labels of all or certain users. (i.e.: Apple computer owners, or the doctors or a text search). Or print labels of those users with flag(x) access.

Included is a full user listing segment which allows the sysop and users to view other users in various ways. List users whose birthdays are this month, or all users by birthday (year is excluded to protect the user). List by computer type, or occupation. The Sysop has a more detailed choice of options, of course.

The information is also available to the sysop while the user is online (if desired) via a window at the bottom of the screen similar to GBBS's window at the top of the world. All data from the User.Stats file is shown.

Installation is easy. Adding of code is minimal and easily accomplished with our instructions. If you use Appleworks, it's even easier.

Stat.System is fully tested and has been running smoothly on a few active boards (Magic Bag and Caddy Shack) for six months and other boards more recently with great satisfaction.

**The price for this is only \$19.95**

Check it out in person at either of the boards listed below. Wednesday is reserved for GBBS sysops ONLY at The Bag.

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# Highlights:

**L&L: (303) 420-3568**

Hardware problems and PC Pursuit Denver problems have plagued L&L, which has managed to get some work done in spite of it all.

First, Lance says the new multi-porting system should be up for beta-test by the end of the month, but he and George Willett of LES-COM-Net are using IIe's instead of II+es because of a SCSI problem. He has dropped plans for using the Transwarp cards, though, and a new CMS chip has cured some other problems. Lance says the new system should work with ANY multi-user hard disk system. I'll keep you posted as work progresses.

Lance also wanted to assure everyone that the reason for ending the link between L&L and TAP wasn't that it didn't work; it was because it worked wonderfully, and the test was over.

**Questions:** Kevin Wheeler wants to know how to clear the screen in a ProTERM default setting? He says the old `sc$=chr$(12):print sc$` doesn't work with ProTERM.

**Mods:** Wheeler posted, in his message about the `sc$`, a suggested credit system for SuperTac.

Ed Lee has written a new Easymail segment, which he has left on several big GBBS boards around. His new segment includes receipts for email, individual mail files, and deletion of certain messages. For more information, contact him at his system, RDF, (718) 969-0324.

**Hardware:** Frank English reports that he has solved his massive problems with date and time getting messed up. After several days of power-offs, he suddenly didn't get a beep and the system died. By swapping chips with another IIe, he was able to determine that his MMU chip had blown. Replacing that chip not only repaired the immediate problem.... but also fixed his clock woes.

Leonard Fagen is having a similar problem with his computer: lots of intermittent bugs. He wonders if there might be a hardware problem, since his II+ has been running faithfully 24 hours a day for more than four years. Frank suggested pulling all the chips and washing the motherboard with contact cleaner, a chore he has done once a year, himself. Anyone have any suggestions on how sysops should run maintenance checks and/or diagnostics? How about an article?

Fagen is also still having trouble with his II+ and certain characters. He tried configuring as a IIe, but his title screen didn't work right.

Paul Hutmacher says that for those having trouble with the Transwarp cards, he uses the following setup: slot 1 = printer, 2 = SSC, 3 = empty, 4 = Transwarp, 5 = Timemaster II, 6 = floppies, 7 = SCSI card. He says you have to slow down the Transwarp for slots 2, 5, and 6, by flipping the dip switches down (open). He says however, that a Transwarp in slot 3 will mess with your ramcard, if you have one, in the auxiliary slot.

**The Apple Pack: (703) 370-4223**

Somebody pass along, please, to Ron Gabbert, that my

hard drive died again and I need him to call my system or L&L and remind me of my password on his system. (sigh. It's been a long month at Chameleon Publishing.)

Michael McEntee asked some pretty general questions about the use of security levels, which he doesn't understand at all. Scott Sidley was kind enough to respond:

"The security flags are used for separating out whatever you want. If you have a function that you want only certain users to see, then set a flag for that user and then test for that flag before the function. Like, elite users will have all flags: 3,5,7,21,30 set. So to get into the elite board, the user must have these flags set in their user record. So you write the code:

```
if flag(3) and flag(5) and flag(7) and flag(21) and flag(30)
goto elite
```

"Flags can be used in any combination, and with more than 30 flags, you can have some massive security levels."

**System Security:** Rick Donaldson and his Eagle Eye caught this one: Someone wrote a GBBS mod called "BATTLE" that Rick found... and embedded in that code, Rick also found the following line:

```
if e0=1 then info(5)=1
```

That code will change ANYONE to sysop level. It was called from a reasonably non-suspicious line of code that didn't show to non-sysops, but one of Rick's users accidentally stumbled on it and caused him no end of trouble. In Rick's words: "CHECK YOUR CODE!"

**Oops:** Users on TAP found a couple of "items" in the trace/chain mod. This in addition to the one that was mentioned on page 8 of the November Pro News. Problem one: sometimes unchained bulletins don't kill properly. Ron Gabbert says to change the last line noted under show2a, so that it reads:

```
gosub kill.3:a=a-1:if aa then aa=aa-(a<aa)
```

```
return
```

Secondly, Mike Delaney had some problems with editing the first line of a post. He adds the variable `e$` at the end of the variables that are read in from the message file: "...date\$ki,kje\$...."

**Manual note:** Al Anderson notes (in a message dated 8/22/87! How long has it been since I was on TAP? [no comments from the peanut gallery....]) that there is a major error in the ACOS manual on page 4-25, under the DEVICE ADDRESS header. It says the video driver starts at \$800 and then lists all the \$800 locations. This is wrong. The video driver on all versions of ACOS from v1.2 up starts at \$900.

**Peripherals Plus: (214) 424-2001**

Sysop Jan Porter is seeking an old Videx or Applied Engineering 80-column card. Anybody?

Porter has been working on a multi-porting system of his own, hoping to have a chat section available between his two ports.

**Mods:** Tommy Johnson, in his wisdom, earns two points with the scowling message to all the dweebs out there who upload GBBS mods and then in the information mere-

ly say, "Cool mod" or "A game."

Mike Delaney has uploaded the latest versions of super.screen.s to P+ and other GBBS support boards around the country. The mod makes a beautiful, information-packed idle screen and includes (gasp!) documentation. It's packed with BLU 2.27 and squeezed with the same, he says.

**Clocks:** Appolusionist (#11) posted a short routine that will return the day of the week on the IIgs clock. He does it by poking a machine language routine into the editor, calls the routine and returns. He also posted a second routine that gets the full time from the IIgs clock.

### **Cottontain Ranch: (602) 433-0159**

As of Jan. 15, Mike Golaszewski is no longer supporting EXfer. On the other hand, the EXfer board continues to offer as much assistance as possible for those owners who require help. Anyone wishing to buy the rights to EXfer should contact Mike here.

**EXfer mods:** David Kirsch posted a modification for the exfer.seg that allows printing the information about files, and Tom Wallace posted a fix for the EXfer credit system.

### **Europa: (713) 526-0714**

Europa discontinued 300-baud access in December because of heavy usage, and the guys at First Word are distributing Quote Master free on the major GBBS support boards.

First Word also introduced System.Master, a new editor for GBBS 'Pro.' It includes an extended text editor, remote system operator toolkit, and full online programming and compiling (of any size files), all for \$44.95. Owners of the Extended Command System can send in their ECS disk with \$19.95 for an upgrade to System.Master.

Also, the v1.1. release of Commander In Chief is available on the Europa Library.

### **Correspondence:**

Tommy Johnson, aka. Rubber Duck, has released the RPG Segment in full force, a mod that will set up a role-playing game on GBBS 'Pro.' All you do is assign a drive spec to the game, run the install program, add one line to your main.seg, and you're ready to roll.

More on this next month; I'm outta space!

## **I KNOW you have something to say!**

So say it here, where other GBBS 'Pro' sysops can read about it!

Articles, columns, ads & mods are hereby solicited from all GBBS sysops, regardless of age, rank and serial number.

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## Mark Havener

# Why you should clean the computer

"Lucky you live in Hawaii" is what we say here in the 50th state, where we can go out and sunbathe on Christmas Day. But living in Paradise is not all it's cracked up to be.

I am running the first (and so far the only) GBBS board in the state. So, when something happens, I can't call down the road (or island in my case) and ask for help. This story is written with a slant of humour, but it is 100 percent true and it might happen to you.

A couple of months ago, I was having random crashes. Not just your regular, consistent type, but the random stuff, where you couldn't get it to happen twice in a row. These were also not the "I"-in-the-upper-left-corner-interrupt-crashes, either. Leaving the program trace on for a week, I found that with this type of crash, the computer would be humming along, and then just spit out 10 to 15 characters (on the program trace) and just stop, necessitating a warm start.

This was getting serious, since it was happening on the order of at least once a day. I was getting frantic. I pored over the shell lists, I ran over ACOS instruction by instruction, and couldn't find a thing. I wrote to Lance, explaining my troubles and pleading on my literary hands and knees for help. Lance was at least as stumped as I was.

Luckily (?) my hard drive started making new and strange noises while accessing files. Since my directory had self-destructed the previous month, I was worried that I might lose everything again. So, I went and bought a Central Point 800K drive and Universal Disk Controller card.

I am an Electronics Technician in the Navy stationed here in Hawaii, and I keep pretty good care of my equipment, cleaning it out fairly often. But since I had been attending classes every night for two months to become a SCUBA instructor, I was behind in my cleaning duties, hence the funny noises in the hard drive. Once I cleaned out all the dust, everything worked fine. But I was surprised when I opened my poor IIe.

We have a columnist here called Lou Boyd (I have no

See "Dirt," page 8

## Chuck Mullis

# Happy New Year 1982, or was it '88?

I waited all year to see if the clock patch supplied last year would work for 1988, or if I would have to watch the New Year come in without the BBS getting the date right. Last year, it took about three days for the fix to be employed, and I awaited the great moment to see if the program would read the clock and at last tell the correct time and date.

I sat at my machine at midnight Dec. 31, 1987, waiting with baited breath, watching the clock, only to discover at the appointed time that the damned thing said, "01/01/82." 82? 82?!!

What terrible trick had fate pulled on me this time? I frantically pulled out my programming manual, hurriedly found last year's fix, and loaded ACOS.OBJ to put in the fix.

```
] BLOAD ACOS>OBJ,A$800
] CALL -151
* D10:37
<CTRL-C>
] BSAVE ACOS.OBJ,A$800,L$5000
```

Okay. Now reboot GBBS 'Pro,' and it says 02/01/64. My God, what have I done? I have gone back in time! How will I ever get back to the future?!

Then I thought, "Hmmm. Maybe it's the clock." So I turned off the power, keeping in mind that I have the users pastime in my hot little hands. I unplug my trusty Thunderclock and lovingly brush off the accumulated dust, and I inspect it with care. Nothing visibly wrong.... All of the protect switches are in the right place.... maybe some chip is fried?

I plug it in again, and it is Friday, Jan 1, 1982. 1982 again? So it's not the BBS. It's the damned clock.

It seems that Thunderclock has a neat little trick that they do with their clocks. The year is calculated automatically, depending on the day of the week, and the month, and the year. The only problem is that the same date occurred way back in 1982 on the same day of the same month.

See What, page 8

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# "Dirt" does not compute

Continued from page 7

idea whether he's syndicated or not) who spouts little-known bizarre facts. A few days earlier he had commented on the fact that geckos are one of the few animals that eliminate both urine and feces in the same action. For those of you who don't know, geckos are small insect-eating tropical lizards, probably a close cousin to a chameleon. You know one is around by the "chirp-chirp" sound they make. They are usually benevolent because they eat cockroaches and mosquitoes.

If you haven't guessed by now, I'll lay it out for you. When I opened my poor IIe, I found gecko droppings all over the motherboard and power supply. The power supply I wasn't worried about, but when you see droppings layered across three pins of the CPU, you begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Well, now I'm wise to the little suckers. I now keep a spray bottle full of lighter fluid near the computer to immolate the (unprintables) if I see them near the computer again. I also keep a medium-sized halon 1211/1301 extinguisher nearby in case I get a little too enthusiastic getting them.

What burns me (if you'll excuse the pun) is that I saw one crawling on the cooling fan about two days before, and I thought to myself, "Aw, cute, a gecko in my room. No more mosquitos eating me at night!"

Well, I still wake up with welts in the morning (the mosquitos here can penetrate sheet metal with their noses) and gecko droppings in the computer. I make a check every other day or so, just to make sure that I don't get any more random crashes.

And you know what? Aside from the "I" crashes, syntax errors, label not found, etc., no more crashes!

So beware, not only of bugs, but.....lizards!

...

*Mark Havener is sysop of The Scavenger Hunt, (808) 622-5186, 300/1200.*

# What day is it really?

Continued from page 7

So if you log onto my board and you are wondering why the system says, "Hello!! You last logged on Dec. 29, 1987," and today is Jan. 1, 1982, realize that I just couldn't even call Thunderclock until Jan. 3.

...

*Chuck Mullis is system operator of the West Coast Edition GBBS, (209) 432-7265, in Fresno, Calif.*

## Trouble with clocks? As in, yours hasn't recognized 1988 yet?

Start by checking ProDOS. You should upgrade beyond ProDOS 1.1.1, and into at least ProDOS v1.4. ProDOS reads your clock for the day of the week and the date and assumes it's only 1982, unless you have the new ProDOS.

Other potential fixes:

- According to Joe Kline, change the date on a IIc system clock by booting CLOCK.SYSTEM while pressing the ESC key and answering the question.

- To hardcode the date to 1988 (after you back up your ACOS.OBJ, of course):

```
] BLOAD ACOS.OBJ
```

```
] CALL -151
```

```
*ØD1Ø:38
```

```
<CTRL-C>
```

```
] BSAVE ACOS.OBJ,A$800,L20480
```

(Steve Schneider adds that if you need it next year, the change will be ØD1Ø:39)

- POKE 3344,56, says Keith Christian, to hardcode that 1988 in there.

- Jono Smith posted on L&L a 32-line program written by Glen Bredon, author of ProSel. The program supposedly will patch your old ProDOS 1.1.1 file.

# Where to find those missing labels

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"can't," you'll see a Label Not Found for every label after that.

Another cause is a lack of disk space. If you have few or no blocks left when you compile a new segment, ACOS can have some trouble with the compile. Try making a backup of a few of the files on the disk, delete them, compile the segment, and copy the files back onto the disk. Not very convenient, but if this is the cause of your Label Not Found problem, you have no choice.

The segment you are trying to compile may also be too large to fit into the somewhat limited 24K ACOS allows (including variables). If this is the problem, remove unnecessary code, or split your long segment into two segments. Removing comments will not work; they are automatically discarded in the compile process anyway.

So next time you see the phrase "Label Not Found" displayed on your screen, don't cry. Just remember the possibilities and find your problem.

Good luck.

## Deadlines? What deadlines?

Sorry about the lateness of this issue. My hard drive blew up again, (this AFTER I got my new power supply that I told myself was going to "for sure" fix it) and I was out of town over Christmas and New Year's so I didn't quite get everything together.

Never fear, though, February will still be out, and I hope to even get to it on time.