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SNA•ps: Host File Name Problem During File Transfer (3/93)

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TOPIC -----

I'm using SNA•ps 3270 1.1.1. I'm connecting to an IBM mainframe and attempting to download a TSO file. I select Receive File option and begin typing in the Host File name. The file name is 'GL.P.C00.STOREXTC(0)'. SNA•ps will not accept this name and gives an error saying "Host filename - first character must be a letter".

I experimented and found that if I specifies a filename without any parenthesis characters, it works OK. The (0) is a Generation Data Group used to document various generations of a particular file. I can work around this problem for now, but it will become a record keeping problem before long.

Are there any alternatives that will allow SNA•ps to accept the parenthesis?

DISCUSSION -----

SNA•ps does support the use of parentheses in the file name for a Receive or a Send file. However, SNA•ps is only expecting a Member Name to be specified within the parentheses; it is not prepared to deal with generation datasets.

In actuality, SNA•ps is not correctly reporting the error here. Because SNA•ps expects the value within the parentheses to be a Member name (that is, to be a member within a library) it is checking for the proper format for a member name. Member names must begin with a character -- this is a TSO constraint. It would have been clearer if they reported "Member name - first character must be a letter".

In this case however, the user is using the valid format for accessing a different type of dataset. Generation datasets are not libraries, but are single datasets which allow multiple occurrences of the same dataset name by using a number at the end to make each unique.

The accepted method for referencing the latest version of the dataset is

(0), but there is also the long form which specifies the exact dataset name (something like G0102V00). We can certainly sympathize with their not wanting to have to find out the exact number each time and type that in.

We will report this as a error to the SNA•ps engineering group.
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