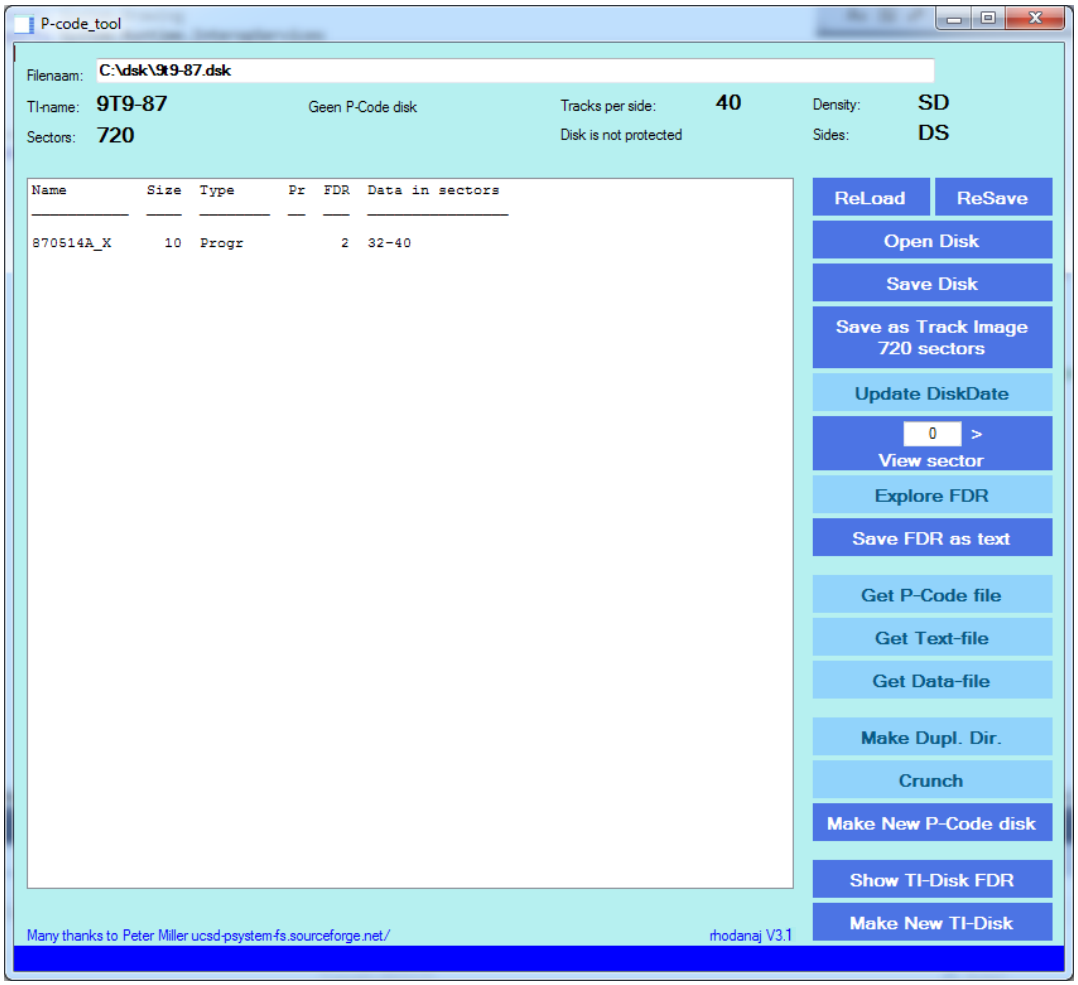
P-code tool V3.1

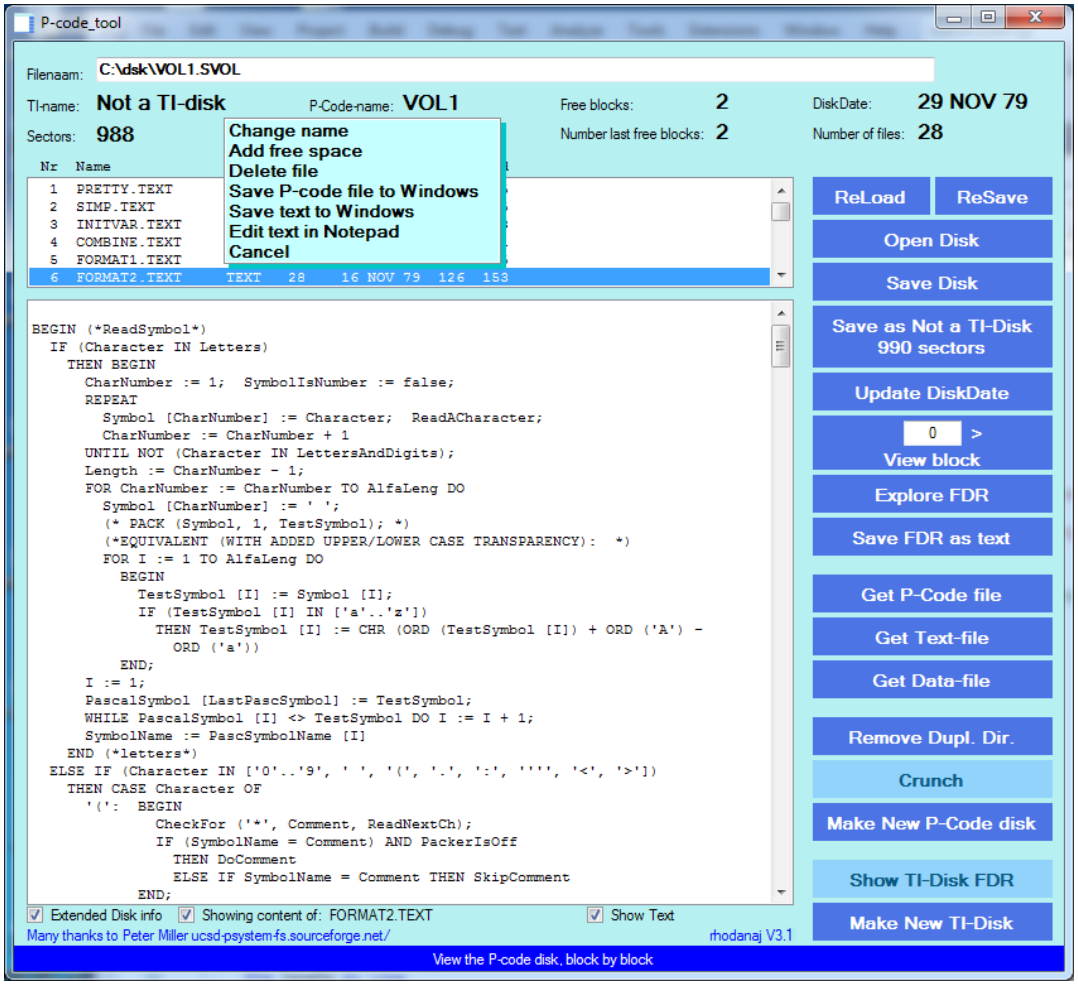
A tool that you can use as an replacement for some of the tool of the Filer and the Editor of the P-code System

This program contains the following Filer commands:
Change name of files or volume
Change the date
Extended directory list
Crunch
List directory
Remove files
Transfer file
(by saving it in Windows and transferring it to another disk, or printing it)
Zero, create a new P code disk

You still need the Filer for the following commands:
Bad blocks
Get workfile
Make file
New workfile
Prefix
Save workfile
Volumes
What workfile
Examine for bad blocks

Version 3.0 may hang if the cluster table in the File Descriptor Record was corrupt. This version V3.1 has absorbed this as much as possible. Also P-code floppies with a damaged directory are more likely to be read as well, so you are able to save any undamaged files.





I made this program to work more easily with the P-code system on an emulator of the TI99 / 4 computer. Anyone who thinks this program is useful for him too, can use this program for free.

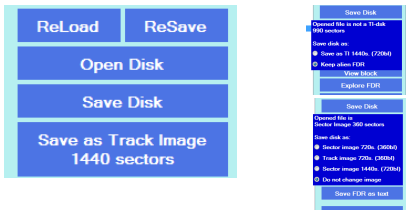
Despite many tests, it is of course possible that the program does not do, what you would like it to do. I cannot be held accountable for this. But you can let me know, so I might be able to find a solution.

This program is made in Visual Basic. Problems, bugs or suggestions can be sent to:
rhodanaj101@gmail.com
This is also the address for the latest version.

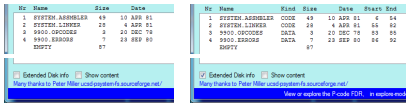
Without the info at the website of Peter Miller, ucsd-psystem-fs.sourceforge.net/ i would not have been able to make this program. I thank him for this.



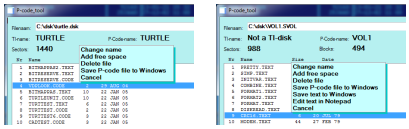
With P-code_tool you can change the Ti name or the P code name by typing the new name in the name box.



With “Open Disc” you can open a disc and resize it or switch between Track image and Sector image with the “Save as” button. Then you can save the disc with “Save Disc”. “Open Disc” can also read some discs that have P-code files, but are not formatted as a TI disc. Files with the extension “.DSK”, “.SVOL” and “FLY” are displayed. Files with other extensions you can try opening with “Show all files (*. *)”. Normal P-code starts at 400 Hex. With the “ReLoad” and “ReSave” you can quickly load or save a file that is already open. You have to use ReLoad when you have changed something on the disc in the emulator. With ReSave the version that is in the P-code-tool will be saved on the disc, overwriding the old.



By clicking on the left under the “Extended disc info” check box, you can switch between the list and the extended list of the directory.



If you click on any of the files with the left mouse button, you can rename the file. You can also add free space for this file if you wish (I needed this to test the Crunch function).
It is also possible to delete the file or to save the file in Windows as a complete P-code file in Windows, which you can retrieve and load onto another P-code disc. The FDR data is stored at the end of the file as 26 bytes. By clicking the left mouse button on a text file, you can save the text as a text file in Windows or edit the text in Notepad. This is why I wanted to make this program in the first place :-). If you close notepad, the text file will be added to the end of the list, the old text file will be deleted and the disc will be Crunched. The date of the disc is being updated.
When you save a text file as a P-code file in Windows and retrieve it, the file will be saved as it was. If you save and retrieve a text file as .txt to Windows (or if you get another text file from Windows), the file will first be converted to a P-code text file.



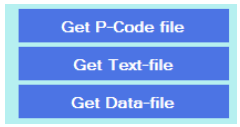
Changing something in a text file will update the disc’s date, but the “Update DiscDate” button also allows you to do this manually.



View block allows you to view any 512 byte block (or 256 byte sector if you have a disc without P-code).



With “Explore FDR” you can see the File Discription Record. If you move the mouse over the table, you will see the hex values. I needed this when I made this program and I just left them in when I finished it. “Save FDR as text” allows you to save the list, extended list or TI-FDR as a text file in Windows.



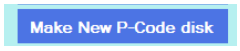
With “Get P-code file” you can load a P-code file, which you saved with the left mouse button, from Windows back to a P-code disc.
The FDR info is placed at the end of the file. Get Text-file allows you to save a normal notepad text file on the P-code disc as a P-code text file.
With “Get Data-file” you can try to create your own data file in windows and put it on the P-code disc. Save a data-file to Windows so you can see how it looks like, it is just a text file.



With “Remove Dupl. Dir” you can create or delete the duplicate directory.



With “Crunch” you remove all empty spaces between the files on the disc.



You can create a new P-code disc with the “Create new P-code disc” button. This can be a disc of 180, 360 or 720 blocks.

Note that you need a dual density disc drive emulation to use a 720 block (1440 sector) disc. Not every P code system emulator program does warn you when you store data beyond the 360 block, when you use a 1440 sector disc on a 720 sector emulated disc drive.



With this P-code tool you can also create a blank TI disc or display the FDR of a TI disc.
TI sector-image disc files can be saved as a TI track-image disc files with the “Save As” button and back to TI sector image.



You can view the contents of a file by clicking on a file and selecting “View Contents.”
For text files, you can also read the text by selecting “Display Text”.

The way I use this program is through:
1.open DSK1.DSK with “Open Disc” (the same disc that is open in P-code system)
2. change the source code file
3. save the disc with “ReSave”
4. go to the P-code emulator and compile the program
5. Repeat 2 to 4 until the program is error free

Rhodanaj - february 2021 - V3.1