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Code page 850

Code page 850 (CCSID 850) (also known as CP 850, IBM 00850,[2] OEM 850,[3] DOS Latin 1[4]) is a code page used under DOS and Psion's EPOC16 operating systems in Western Europe.[5] Depending on the country setting and system configuration, code page 850 is the primary code page and default OEM code page in many countries, including various English-speaking locales (e.g. in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Canada), whilst other English-speaking locales (like the United States) default to use the hardware code page 437.[6]

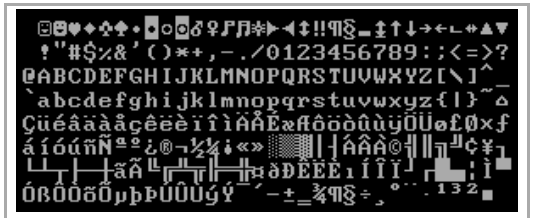
Code page 850 differs from code page 437 in that many of the box-drawing characters, Greek letters, and various symbols were replaced with additional Latin letters with diacritics, thus greatly improving support for Western European languages (all characters from ISO 8859-1 are included). At the same time, the changes frequently caused display glitches with programs that made use of the box-drawing characters to display a GUI-like surface in text mode.

In 1998, code page 858 was derived from this code page by changing code point 213 ($D5_{hex}$) from a dotless i ‹ı› to the euro sign ‹€›.[7] Despite this, IBM's PC DOS 2000, released in 1998, changed their definition of code page 850 to what they called *modified code page 850* now including the euro sign at code point 213 instead of adding support for the new code page 858.[nb 1][8][9][10]

Systems largely replaced code page 850 with Windows-1252 which contains all same letters, and later with Unicode.[nb 2]

Contents

Code page 850



Code page 850 character set with 9×14 glyphs, as usually rendered by Video Graphics Array (VGA)

MIME / IANA	`IBM850`
Alias(es)	cp850, 850, csPC850Multilingual,[1] DOS Latin 1, OEM 850
Language(s)	English, various others
Classification	Extended ASCII, OEM code page
Extends	US-ASCII
Based on	OEM-US
Transforms / Encodes	ISO/IEC 8859-1 (reordered)
Other related encoding(s)	Code page 858 (PC DOS 2000's "modified code page 850"), code page 437

Character set

Each character appears with its equivalent Unicode code-point. Only the second half of the table (code points 128–255) is shown, the first half (code points 0–127) being the same as code page 437.

Code page 850[3][11][12][13][14]															
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
8x	Ç	ü	é	â	ä	à	å	ç	ê	ë	è	ï	î	ì	Ä	Å
9x	É	æ	Æ	ô	ö	ò	û	ù	ÿ	Ö	Ü	ø	£	Ø	×	ƒ
Ax	á	í	ó	ú	ñ	Ñ	ª	º	¿	®	¬	½	¼	¡	«	»
Bx	░	▒	▓	│	┤	Á	Â	À	©	╣	║	╗	╝	¢	¥	┐
Cx	└	┴	┬	├	─	┼	ã	Ã	╚	╔	╩	╦	╠	═	╬	¤
Dx	ð	Ð	Ê	Ë	È	ı	Í	Î	Ï	┘	┌	█	▄	¦	Ì	▀
Ex	Ó	ß	Ô	Ò	õ	Õ	µ	þ	Þ	Ú	Û	Ù	ý	Ý	¯	´
Fx	SHY	±	‗	¾	¶	§	÷	¸	°	¨	·	¹	³	²	■	NBSP

☐ Differences from code page 437

See also

- Western Latin character sets (computing)
- Hardware code page
- LMBCS-1

Notes

1. The reason for this might have been down to existing restrictions in the implementation of the codepage switching logic under MS-DOS/PC DOS, which limited .CPI files to 64 KB in size or about six codepages maximum, a limitation, which was circumvented in some OEM versions of MS-DOS, in Windows NT, and also does not exist in DR-DOS. Further, the parser in MS-DOS/PC DOS limits the number of possible country / codepage entries in COUNTRY.SYS files to a maximum of 146 or 438, a limitation non-existent in DR-DOS. So, adding support for codepage 858 might have meant to drop another (e.g. codepage 850) at the same time, which might not have been a viable solution at that time, given that some applications were hard-wired to use codepage 850.
2. The Windows NT line was natively Unicode from the start, but issues of development tool support and compatibility with Windows 9x kept most applications on the 8-bit code pages.

References

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