

Product Launch Point (PLP) The Dynamic ISPF Menu Tool

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Overview

The Product Launch Point, or PLP, is a dynamic ISPF Menu tool that provides scrollable, searchable, ISPF menus for the user while eliminating the need for the systems programmer to maintain ISPF Menus using traditional ISPF panels and allocation CLISTs or EXECs.

There is both a User interface and an Administrator interface with this application. The Administrator interface is used to create and manage the dynamic ISPF menus for both the system level as well as at the user level.

The PLP also provides the ability to bypass the selection menu and directly enter any of the applications listed in the menu.

Getting Started

PLP is a launch point for any vendor or local ISPF application. To use PLP simply enter on any ISPF command line **PLP** to bring up the PLP list of available applications:

```
ASYS  ----- Product Launch Point Menu PLP  - Row 1 to 16 of 56
Command ==>                                     Scroll ==> CSR

Commands: F xxx Find string L xx Locate prefix S app opt Start app
Line:      S Select B Browse Information I Info on Cmd L Launch U User

Sel   Application Description                               (press PF1 for help)
-
-   ABENDAID      AbendAid Output Processor
-   APPS          KFHP Application Systems
-   APPTCAL       Appointment Calendar Command
-   BCOM          BCOM IBM<-->Tandem File Transfer
-   BMCUTIL       BMC IMS and VSAM Utilities
-   BOOKMGR       IBM BookManager Read/MVS Softcopy Library
-   CAVIEW        CA-View (formerly SAR) Menu
-   CA1           CA-1 Tape Management System (TMS)
-   CA11          CA-11 ISPF Interface
-   CA7BATCH      CA-7 Environment (Batch)
-   CA7ONLIN      CA-7 Environment (Online)
-   CHNGMAN       Change Implementation Management
-   CICSAAFX      CICS AbendAid/FX Output Processor
-   CMAN          Change Implementation Management
-   COBTOOL       Compile Tools
-   CSP           Cross System Product
```

Example 1: Basic display of PLP Menu

From example 1 it is apparent that the list of applications is in a scrollable ISPF table. To simplify finding the right application the user has several commands available:

FIND xxx or F xxx	To find the character string xxx in either the application name or in the description
LOCATE xx or L xx	To locate the application by using the character string xx looking at just the first characters of the application name
S app opt	To start an application with the specified options (e.g. S SDSF LOG)
Application-name	Or enter any application in the menu with or without options. (e.g. SDSF ST)

Once the application has been found the user has two additional options:

B	To browse a short text file describing the application (not available for all applications)
I	Display information about this command table entry
L	Same as S (Start) but this will Launch the application in a new session.
S or just press enter in point-and-shoot style	To select the application to launch it.
U	Add the current application to the User application table.

Once the user knows the name of the application they wish to execute they can execute it from the ISPF command line by entering **PLP app-name options**. In this case the app-name would be found by a search of the table and when a match is made the application will be invoked. If any options are specified then those options are passed to that application.

For example: **PLP SDSF ST**

This will invoke the SDSF product and pass ST as the option to start SDSF with the Status display.

For individual departments or groups the **PLP /GRP** option may be used to define a application list unique to that group of users. The first time this is used by a user a popup panel will be displayed prompting for a dataset name where the application list table resides. If the dataset name changes the user may change it by entering **PLP /GRPN** to be re-prompted for the dataset name. See the Administration section below for information on how to build this application list.

A special application list for system programmers is also available via the **PLP /SYS** command.

Here is an example of the **PLP /SYS** application list:

```
ASYS ----- Product Launch Point Menu SYS - Row 1 to 16 of 27
Command ==> Scroll ==> CSR

Commands: F xxx Find string L xx Locate prefix S app opt Start app
Line:      S Select B Browse Information I Info on Cmd L Launch U User

Sel  Application Description                                     (press PF1 for help)
-
AO      Automated Operations (CA-OPS/MVS)
-
AOES    Automated Operations Event Scheduler
-
BMCDB2  BMC DB2 Data Administration Utilities
-
BMCIMS  BMC IMS Utilities
-
DATAVAN DataVantage ISPF Interface
-
DB2PM   DB2 Performance Monitor
-
EREP    Interactive EREP
-
ESCM    ESCON Manager
-
FATS    FATS/FATAR - Fast Analysis of Tape
-
HCD     Hardware Configuration Definition
-
IPCS    Interactive Problem Control System (Dump Analysis)
-
ISMF    Interactive Storage Management Facility
-
JOBTRAC CA-Jobtrac ISPF Dialog
-
KFHPCAT Master Catalog Synchronization/Management
-
KPNEWS  KP ISPF News
-
KPNEWSA KP ISPF News Administration
```

Example 2: Systems Programmer PLP Menu

To simplify the use of this the command **PLPS** has been added to the ISPF command table. This table has the same look and feel as the standard user menu.

Note: To provide additional information to the user the **first** time that this application is used the tutorial will be displayed for both the user and the administrator. After the first usage the tutorial is only displayed upon request. A short tutorial panel is also displayed the first time the launch line option is used because of the possibility that the user may not be familiar with using more than 2 ISPF Sessions.

Another option is **PLPU** which brings up the User application list:

```
ASYS ----- Product Launch Point Management USER Row 1 to 7 of 7
Command ==> Scroll ==> CSR

Commands: F xxx Find string I Insert L xxx Locate prefix S app opt Start app
          Save Cancel or Report
Line:      A B C D E I L R S (see help for more information)

Sel  Application Description                                     (press PF1 for help)
-
BOOK  IBM BookManager Read/MVS Softcopy Library
-
I      Interactive Output Facility
-
LOG    SDSF Log Dialog
-
OPS    Automated Operations
-
ST     SDSF Status Dialog
-
U98    User Clist
-
U99    User Panel
```

Example 3: User Application List

This display is a custom list of applications that is maintained in the users ISPF Profile dataset. The display is the same as the standard Administration display since the user has total control over their own list. The

only exception from the standard Administration display is the lack of the MENU command and M selection options as sub-menus are not supported for the User interface.

The Application name in this list may be changed by the user to a shorter or different name to speed their access to the application. For example, in the above list the two applications **LOG** and **ST** are user defined fast path option to the **SDSF LOG** and **SDSF ST** dialogs.

To add an application to this list the user may use the line selection command **U** from the standard list. The **U** line command will insert the selected application into the User list such that the application will be still executed from the default list. See below under PLP Administration for more information on managing the User list.

If the **Z** option has been added to the ISPF Primary Options Menu (see below in the Installation section), the user will have a fast path to the application in the User list. This way the user can, by entering **Z.xxx**, where **xxx** is the application name in the User application list, to get quickly to any application. Thus **Z.ST**, in our example, would start the **SDSF Status** dialog.

PLP Administration

To setup the list of available applications requires entering the PLP application using the option ADMIN thus:

```
PLP ADMIN
or
PLP /SYS ADMIN
or
PLP /GRP ADMIN or PLP /GRPN ADMIN
or
PLP /USER
or if PLP is not in the ISPF command table
TSO %PLPISPF ADMIN
```

This will bring up the display in Example 4. Note the first time the Administration interface is entered the display in example 5 (below) to enter the first new application will be displayed.

```
RSYS ----- Product Launch Point Management PLP ---- Row 1 of 46
Command ==> Scroll ==> CSR

Commands: F xxx Find string I Insert L xxx Locate prefix S app opt Start app
          Save Cancel Copy Menu or Report
Line:     A B C D E I L M R S (see help for more information)

Sel  Application Description (press PF1 for help)
-
ABENDAID  AbendAid Output Processor
-
CAVIEW    CA-View (formerly SAR) Menu
-
CA1       CA-1 Tape Management System (TMS)
-
CA11      CA-11 ISPF Interface
-
CA7BATCH  CA-7 Environment (Batch)
-
CA7ONLIN  CA-7 Environment (Online)
-
CHNGMAN   Change Implementation Management
-
CICSAAFX  CICS AbendAid/FX Output Processor
-
CMAN      Change Implementation Management
-
COBTOOL   Compile Tools
-
CSP       Cross System Product
-
CSSVS     Compuware Viewing Facility
-
DB2       DB2 Environment
-
DB2MENU   DB2 Subsystem Selection Menu
```

Example 4: PLP Administration

To provide backup in case an incorrect update occurs the application will create a history of up to 3 backup copies of the table. To recover use ISPF 3.1 to delete the current table and **copy** one of the backup copies as that name..

The tables are named:

Default table	PLPISPF
/SYS table	SYSPLP
/GRP	GRPISPF (in a user defined library)
/GRPN	Used to re-prompt the /GRP library
/USER	USERPLP - created in the users ISPF Profile dataset - by default is always in ADMIN mode
/xxx table	xxxPLP where xxx can be up to 4 characters * avoid tables with a letter followed by 3 numerics (e.g. A001) as these are used internally for sub-menus)
xnnn	Sub-menu tables where x is A through Z and nnn are 001 to 999 (e.g. A001PLP).

A table suffix of ADM or ADMn indicates that the table is used in the Administration mode. When the Administration process is complete the last step is to COPY the table from xxxxADMn to the primary table name..

When in ADMIN mode the table being updated is a working table with a suffix of ADM. After making updates you can:

- Cancel which will throw away all changes
- Save which saves the ADMIN copy of the table but does not update the production copy
- Copy which does a Save and then copies the updated table into production

For recovery when in ADMIN mode three copies of the table are saved. The format for the table name is xxxxADM for the active ADMIN table and xxxxADMn for the saved copies (where xxxx is the name of the environment – PLP, SYS, USER). Thus for the base PLP table the table names would be:

Table Name	Description
PLPADM	Active ADMIN Table
PLPADM1	Prior 1 ADMIN Table
PLPADM2	Prior 2 ADMIN Table
PLPADM3	Prior 3 ADMIN Table
PLPISPF	Production Table

Should you need to recover just use ISPF 3.1 to rename one of the backup PLPADMn tables to PLPISPF or xxxISPF.

The supported ADMIN commands are:

FIND xxx or F xxx	To find the character string xxx in either the application name or in the description
I	Insert a new application
LOCATE xx or L xx	To locate the application by using the character prefix xx looking at just the first characters of the application name
S app opt	To start an application with the specified options (e.g. S SDSF ST)
CANCEL	Cancel all updates and end without saving
COPY	Copy the table into production
MENU	Insert a sub-menu (not valid for USER)
SAVE	Save the table
REPORT	Generate a Report of what's in the table

The available line commands are:

A	Assign an alias for this command
B	To Browse a short text file describing the application (not available for all applications)
C	Change the current entry
D	Delete the current entry
E	To Edit a short text file describing the application (stored in the same dataset as the ISPF Tables)
I	Insert a new entry
L	Same as S (Start) but this will Launch the application in a new session.
M	Insert a sub-menu (not valid for USER)
R	Repeat this command allowing a change in the command name
S	Start an application to verify (a SAVE must be done before this will be allowed)

The screen below (Example 5) will be displayed with either Insert or Change. With Insert all fields are blank. With Change you can change any field on the screen. **Note** that if the User application is active then an abbreviated screen will be displayed if the Command begins with **%PLPISPF** to reduce the potential that the user will inadvertently make an update which would prevent the application from starting.

```

----- Product Launch Point Management -----
Command ==>

Enter, Verify, or Change (* = required)

*Application Name      ABENDAID A unique application name 1-8 characters
Application ID        AAUT      1-4 characters for application id
*Description           Abendaaid Test_____
Step Library or       'SYS2.AA824.ABENDAID' 'SYS2.CX760.LOAD'_____
ISPF Load Library
ISPF Message Dataset  'SYS2.CX760.ISPMLIB'_____
ISPF Panel Dataset    'SYS2.AA.ISPPLIB' 'SYS2.CX760.ISPPLIB'_____
ISPF Skeleton Dataset _____
ISPF Table Dataset    _____
Clist Library         _____
REXX EXEC Library     _____
*Application Start (select one)
  Command
    Program      CWDDSUTL  Parm  spf_____
    ISPF Panel    _____  Panel option _____
Additional Datasets:  Yes   Yes to add more

```

Example 5: Insert Application (example)

As can be seen from Example 5 just about everything required to invoke an ISPF application is asked for. If all of the datasets requested are defined then they will be dynamically allocated and the appropriate service utilized to enable them. LIBDEF will be used for the ISPF libraries (Load, Message, Panel, Skeleton, and Table). ALTLIB will be used for CLIST and REXX EXEC libraries. DYNASTEP (from Tone Software) or Gilbert Saint-flour's STEPLIB will be used for the Step library depending upon what is defined during installation.

Datasets may be specified using system symbolics (e.g. &SYSNAME) and will be resolved before allocation occurs. Each dataset must be separated by either a blank or a comma.

If no datasets are specified then the necessary ISPF library resources must already be contained within an existing allocation or the command or program must allocate them.

If additional, application specific, datasets are required then specify **Yes** in the Additional Datasets prompt to see the panel in Example 6 below.

```

----- Product Launch Point Management -----
Command ==>

Enter, Verify, or Change

DD1 : _____ DSN1 : _____
DD2 : _____ DSN2 : _____
DD3 : _____ DSN3 : _____
DD4 : _____ DSN4 : _____
DD5 : _____ DSN5 : _____
DD6 : _____ DSN6 : _____
DD7 : _____ DSN7 : _____
DD8 : _____ DSN8 : _____
DD9 : _____ DSN9 : _____
DD10: _____ DSN10: _____
DD11: _____ DSN11: _____
DD12: _____ DSN12: _____
DD13: _____ DSN13: _____
DD14: _____ DSN14: _____
DD15: _____ DSN15: _____

If the ddname is blank then the dataset will be concatenated to the
prior ddname.

```

Example 6: Entering Application Specific DD and Dataset information.

To insert a sub-menu (not valid for the User Table option) use the MENU command or the M selection option. The following panel will be displayed:

```

----- Product Launch Point Management - New Menu -----
Command ==>

Enter, Verify, or Change (* = required)

*Menu Name          _____ A menu name 1-8 characters
*Description         _____

```

Enter a Menu name and a description. The table name will be dynamically defined based upon the last sub-menu created. Member MENUCTR in the table library contains the table prefix character and the last number (e.g. A 1). Once the sub-menu entry is created in the table, while still in ADMIN mode, SAVE or COPY the table and then select the entry to begin creating the sub-menu table.

User Table Administration

When the user uses the U command on the default (or other non-USER) list to add an application to the User list the panel in Example 6 is displayed.

Notice that in this display that only the Application Name, the Description, and the Command are setup. The Command is setup such that the application will be invoked using the source command list. This is to insulate the user from changes in the application setup (assuming the application name is not changed in the source list). If the application were to be added from the /SYS list then the Command would be:

%PLPISPF /SYS application-name

The user may change any, or all, of these options but is cautioned not to unless they are very familiar with the potential problems (i.e. not being able to access the application from the User list).

The Application Name may be changed and options added to the end of the Command, as was discussed before, to provide a fast path entry to an application without having to start at the top of the dialog. Example 7 demonstrates changing application added in Example 6 to be a fastpath to the SDSF Status dialog. The updates are noted in **bold**.

```
----- Product Launch Point Management -----
Command ==>

Enter, Verify, or Change (* = required)

*Application Name      SDSF_____ A unique application name 1-8 characters
*Description           System Display and Search Facility_____

*Application Start
  Command      %PLPISPF SDSF
  Options:     _____ Changeable
```

Example 6: User Add Display

```
----- Product Launch Point Management -----
Command ==>

Enter, Verify, or Change (* = required)

*Application Name      ST_____ A unique application name 1-8 characters
*Description           SDSF Status Dialog_____

*Application Start
  Command      %PLPISPF SDSF
  Options:     st_____ Changeable
```

Example 7: User Add Display – updated