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HyperCard: Converting HyperCard Data to FileMaker (2/93)

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TOPIC -----

The following HyperCard script is a general approach to converting stack data to FileMaker format. To use it, create a new button on any card, then enter the text below into the script area of the button. When you are done entering the script, click the new button to begin the export process.

DISCUSSION -----

```
on mouseUp
  put the short name of this stack & ".txt" into fileName
  ask "Send text to what file?" with fileName
  if it is empty then exit mouseUp
  put it into fileName
  open file fileName
  repeat with i=1 to the number of cards
    go to card i
    repeat with j=1 to the number of background fields
      repeat with k=1 to the number of lines of bg field j
        if k > 1 then write numToChar(11) to file fileName
        write line k of background field j to file fileName
      end repeat
      write tab to file fileName
    end repeat
    write return to file fileName
  end repeat
  close file fileName
end mouseUp
```

How it Works

The text contents of the HyperCard stack will be put into a text file that will read into FileMaker in exactly the same format as it existed in HyperCard. Create a new FileMaker file with the same number of fields as in the HyperCard stack and use the "Input From" command to read in the text file. After the file is read in, examine the data in the fields and rename the fields as appropriate.

This script converts all the Returns pressed inside the HyperCard fields to vertical tabs for the benefit of FileMaker. Thus, large fields with many

lines will become large fields with many lines in FileMaker. If you want to break field data up into more meaningful chunks (for example, "City," "State," and "Zip" instead of "Address") you must either modify this script or create a calculation field in FileMaker to parse the fields using text manipulation functions (left, middle, right, and position). Most people find working in FileMaker more comfortable. Without writing the appropriate script in HyperCard or building the proper formulas in FileMaker, there is no way to "magically" convert such items into separate fields, since the structure can vary so much.

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