HyperCard: Importing and Exporting Text, and Where To Get Info

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TOPIC ---

Here is a button script that imports text data into HyperCard. The data
source is a text file with the following format:

data<tab>data<tab>.....data<tab>data<carriage return>
data<tab>data<tab>.....data<tab>data<carriage return>
data<tab>data<tab>.....data<tab>data<carriage return>
...

DISCUSSION --

This script reads data and puts it into a field in the card where the button
is. It moves to the next field when it encounters a tab, and makes a new
card after a carriage return. This script requires that the number of fields
in your card equals the number of data items you want to import.

Begin_Table

```
on mouseUp
  ask "Import text from what file?" -- Ask user for name of source file.
  if it is empty then exit mouseUp
  put it into fileName -- "put" and "open" open the text file for reading.
  open file fileName
  repeat -- Data is imported in the "repeat" loops.
    doMenu "New Card" -- Make a new card.
    repeat with i = 1 to the number of fields - 1
      read from file fileName until tab -- Read text from the file until Tab
      -- character is encountered.
      put empty into last char of it    -- Remove Tab.
      put it into field i
    end repeat
    read from file fileName until return
    if it is empty then -- end of file
      if i = 1 then doMenu "Delete Card"
      close file fileName
      exit mouseUp
    end if
    put empty into last char of it  -- remove Return.
```

```
      put it into field (i + 1)
   end repeat
end mouseUp


End_Table


When the first tab is encountered, the tab is removed from the string and
the data is placed in field one. This is done until the next to last
field, because we have to look for a carriage return at the end of the last
field. We then read in data until a carriage return occurs, and the data is
placed into the last field of the card.

This script has been used to import data files 500K and larger into
HyperCard. It may have to be changed to work with a specific data file or
format.

You can also EXPORT text from HyperCard fields into a text file. You can
tab delimit the fields, or use any character you want:


Begin_Table


on mouseUp
  ask "Export text to what file?" -- Ask user for name of source file.
  if it is empty then exit mouseUp
  put it into fileName -- "put" and "open" open the text file for reading.
  open file fileName
  repeat with i = 1 to the number of cards -- go through all the cards
    go to card i
    repeat with j = 1 to the number of fields - 1
      write field j to file fileName -- get the field and write it out
      write tab to file fileName -- put a tab after it,
                                 -- or any character you want
    end repeat
     write field (j + 1) to file fileName -- write the last field
    write return to file fileName -- and a carriage return
  end repeat
  close file fileName
end mouseUp


End_Table


This would export the data you had just imported with the first script.

NOTE: This second script has NOT been extensively tested.

ANOTHER NOTE: This is NOT the only way to import & export data: use it as
a guide for your own scripts. These examples were chosen because
tab-delimited data is a common format. HyperCard offers a large amount of
flexibility in reading data in and out, and it would be impossible to
describe all the different methods in this article. There are various
sources of information regarding the HyperTalk scripting language.


For more information:
```

- HyperCard's Help stack (look for "ask", "put", "open", "write", "repeat",
  and "doMenu")
  This part of HyperCard is often overlooked. The built-in help has
  descriptions of the HyperTalk commands available to you, and is on-line.

- "HyperCard Script Language Guide" (APDA)
  This is the definitive guide to the HyperTalk scripting language. It
  contains descriptions to all the HyperTalk commands available, and also
  discusses the HyperCard environment.

- Danny Goodman's "The Complete HyperCard Handbook" (Bantam)
  This was the first book available as a reference for HyperCard, and
  covers the tools available in HyperCard, as well as how to use the
  scripting abilities. It also has example scripts.

- Additional third-party books.
  You should be able to find various other books on HyperCard at a local
  computer bookstore.

- The User Groups Icon on AppleLink.
  This icon is a meeting place for Apple dealers and user groups to exchange
  information relating to Apple products. There is also a HyperCard folder,
  devoted to questions and answers and public domain and shareware utilities
  and stacks for HyperCard.

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02 Oct 1995 - Corrected minor typo, brought format up to date.

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