HyperCard: How To Use for Text File Column Alignment

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TOPIC ----------

I want to upload a Macintosh spreadsheet to an AS/400 - via a KMW box - as a text file with column alignment intact. Both WingZ and Excel write to text files, but add tabs between columns. I need to have spaces between columns to correctly align the columns using a nonproportional font.

I tried using Vantage/McSink, but it only left-justifies columns; I need right justification on numbers.

My idea was to get a generic TTY print driver to print the spreadsheet, then capture it to a text file for uploading. I received a TTY print driver from GDT Softworks, but can't think of a method/utility to capture printer output to a text file.

DISCUSSION ----------

We aren't aware of a commercial solution to your needs, but HyperCard can be used for a custom workaround.

Use Vantage (or Microsoft Word or equivalent) to convert the tab-delimited output from the spreadsheet to comma-delimited text. HyperCard considers each spreadsheet entry in the text file an item in a line. You could even use HyperCard to do the tab-comma conversion, but for simplicity, we'll assume the tabs have been converted.

Read the comma-delimited text into a variable (we used "container1") and call the following code:

```
on mouseUp
  repeat with i = 1 to the number of lines in container1
    repeat with j = 1 to the number of items in line i of container1
      set cursor to busy
      put expand (item j of line i of container1) after container2
    end repeat
    put return after container2
  end repeat
```

```
  open file "your filename here"
  write container2 to file "your filename here"
end mouseUp

function expand which
  put 25 into fieldLength
  if which = empty
  -- send a string of spaces fieldLength long
  then
    repeat with i = 1 to fieldLength
      put " " after temp
      return temp
    end repeat
  else
    repeat with i = 1 to fieldLength - length (which)
      put " " after temp
    end repeat
    -- pad with spaces
    return temp & which
  end if
end expand
```

The formatted text is now saved as "your filename here".

(NOTE: The entire process could have been done while reading the text in a line at a time, rather than moving it into a container before expanding, but it was easier to explain as a multistep process.)

Keywords: <None>

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