

## Build .CRD files from Formatted ASCII

Txt2Crd lets you create a .CRD card file from a formatted ASCII text file. Typically you create the text file from an existing database, and Txt2Crd turns it into into a file that you can use with the Windows Cardfile program.

### *Why would I want to do this?*

Cardfile comes with every copy of Windows - it is a simple and quick retrieval vehicle. You may wish to distribute extracts of larger databases to a wide audience and maintain the original with a full-featured program. Road Warriors will appreciate the 'small' footprint required by the database engine and find that building a couple of select cardfiles tailors the information to just their needs. Think of it as a tool for "throwaway databases".

### Prerequisites

Windows 3.1.

### Installation

Copy TXT2CRD.EXE & TXT2CRD.HLP into any suitable directory. There are no special path requirements.

### Using the Program

To use the program, you need to create the input file, verify the field separator, and process the data.

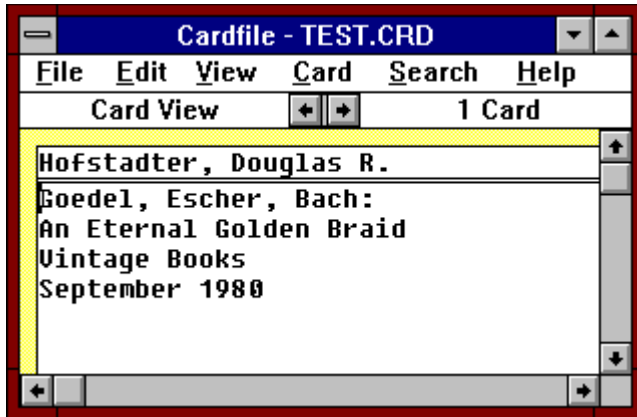
You can set the field separator by choosing **File/Configure...** and filling in the dialog. **Txt2Crd** limits you to a single character for the separator. Yourr choice will become the new default which persists between sessions.

Then choose **File/Open** and respond to the two dialog boxes. The first solicits the input file name, the second the output file name. **Txt2Crd** will then read the input file and write out the cards.

### Formatting an Input File

Txt2Crd takes a specially formatted text file and creates cards from it. Each line in the input file becomes a separate card. If you define a field separator, the input line is broken into fields at each separator. The first field becomes the index line, the rest become separate lines on the card. Here's a sample input line and the resulting card ("!" is the field separator):

Hofstadter, Douglas R.!Goedel, Escher, Bach!An Eternal Golden Braid!Vintage Books!Septemter 1980



Here are the formatting conventions:

- \*Each input record (line) translates to one card in the output file
- \*Input lines are limited to max 600 characters
- \*You should define a field separator character - default is '!'
- \*First field becomes index for the card, and must be 40 chars or less
- \*Remaining fields each become a line on the card - they will wrap if > 40 chars
- \*Cards are not required to have the same number of lines

Look at the sample input file, **test.txt**, run it through Txt2Crd, and view the resulting card file to get a feel for how this works. It includes one line that rejects.

### Steps to Create an Input File

Generally you will take an existing database file and export it (through your database program) as an ASCII text file. The actual steps depend on the program. In this scheme each database record becomes one line in the output file, and ultimately one card in the cardfile. You should place a separator character (which will be unique in your data) between database fields so that **Txt2Crd** knows where to break the input lines. You may need to define a temporary field for your database so that you can output the separator as needed. Once you have the Ascii file you can run it through Txt2Crd to create the cardfile.

### Errors

When **Txt2Crd** discovers errors in the input file, it displays a message in the Status list box along with the rejected record. Both the record number and the text are given. Rejects are caused by the following:

- \* Index entries > 40 characters
- \* Empty input lines
- \* Input lines > 600 characters

### Constraints

The Windows **cardfile.exe** program has certain limits in displaying cards. Briefly,

- index lines must be <= 40 characters
- max 11 lines of text per card
- the total size of the card file is limited - it depends on you system and version

**Txt2Crd** does not enforce all of these limits - it will read all the input lines and create output cards for each line. Thus, you may create unreadable cards, or files that are too large to process. It is up to you to manage the input file and record size so that the cardfile limits are observed.

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### **Disclaimer**

You use Txt2Crd entirely at your own risk. Only you can determine its suitability for your configuration and needs. No other warranties are offered or implied.

### **Problems, Suggestions:**

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### **Appendix - Contents of test.txt:**

Hofstadter, Douglas R.!Goedel, Escher, Bach:!An Eternal Golden Braid!Vintage Books!September 1980  
Brockschmidt, Kraig!Inside OLE 2!Microsoft Press!1994  
Petzold, Charles!Programming Windows 3.1!Microsoft Press!1993  
Brown, Gary D.!System 370 Job Control Language!John Wiley & Sons!1977  
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