

PMC Systems Software

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Documentation for DISCDB16.EXE or DISCDB32.EXE (c)1995

DiscDBxx is a combination of a database program for keeping a list of compact music discs and to use a CD-Rom drive to assist in creating the database. The program will also just play CD music discs, if the necessary hardware/software exists.

DISCDB16.EXE will function in Windows 3.1(tm), Win95(tm) or the Windows NT(tm) operating system. The PMC logo will show a 16.

DISCDB32.EXE will only function under the Win95(tm) or Windows NT(tm) 32 bit operating system. The PMC logo will show a 32.

The software assumes that the Window's(tm) sound driver is loaded and that your CD player(s) already reads CD-Rom files/plays games etc. If you require more information on the sound driver or your CD-Rom, please consult the manuals provided for the operating system, the sound card, and the CD-Rom device manufacturer.

A good set of headphones or your sound card connected to a nice sound system also helps, if you want to enjoy the full reasoning and benefits of this custom developed software program.

Although the software is designed to be intuitive, this manual covers the specific details on the use/creation of a music disc database and the operation of a CD-Rom drive to play music discs. The software also includes a Windows(tm) help file, that can be accessed from the program main menu, under the heading of Help.

INSTALLATION....

Installation of the software is achieved by using the provided SETUP program. This process only takes a few minutes and when completed, all that needs to be done is to click with your mouse on the Disc Player DB icon, in the Disc Player DB folder.

Using old style Windows(tm)....

To Install the program, insert the floppy disk into drive A: and then in the Window's Program Manager, select FILE, and then select RUN. At the RUN dialog, type in A:\SETUP and press the enter key.

Using Win95(tm)....

Invoke the Control Panel. Click on Add/Remove programs. At the dialog click on 'INSTALL'. The Setup Wizard will find Setup.exe and then follow the prompts to complete the installation.

For users of the new Windows(tm) interface, the original install will have the new folder on the desktop. For next use of the software, the requirement is clicking of the START button, move the mouse pointer on PROGRAMS, then move the mouse pointer on to PMC's Disc Player, which will then generate the folder listing.

Whenever the software is started, it will automatically create a new disc player database, or open the last disc database that was in use.

The software requires an INI file. This is included with the SETUP installation. The Disc Player DB will also create a new INI file, if an original file can not be found in the Windows(tm) operating system directory. This new INI file will appear after the software is ended or shut down.

Please see the details under the heading of INI File for more details on what should be changed to customize the Disc Player database for your specific word processor and your computer system sound card.

MAIN -> SUB MENU COMMANDS:

File -> Create

Create a new Disc Player database file or open an existing file.

-> Open

Open an existing Disc Player database file.

-> Print -> Current

Print the current viewed record to a file.

-> Number

Print records from number to number, to a file.

-> All

Print all the records to a file

Any print command will then load a word processor for printing. The default word processor is Windows(tm) Notepad. See the Ini file settings to change this to your own choice/word processor.

-> Delete Print File

Delete any previously made Print file, if it exists.

-> DiscDB

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-> Exit

Terminate the program.

Edit -> New

Create a new compact disc database record to fill/edit.

-> Modify

Edit or modify an existing CD database record.

-> Cancel

Stop or cancel a new or existing edit of a database record.

-> Save

Save to disk the new or modified edit of a database record.

-> Restore

Using the backup file, restore or replace a database record.

-> Delete

Erase or delete the current viewed database record.

-> Copy To Clipboard

Copy the current viewed record to the Windows(tm) clipboard.

This data block can then be pasted into another program file.

View -> First

Move the CD database pointer to the first record and view.

-> Previous

Move the CD database pointer to the previous record and view.

-> Next

Move the CD database pointer to the next record and view.

-> Last

Move the CD database pointer to the last record and view.

Locate -> First

Bring up the dialog to begin a search process.

-> Next

Continue the search after a search value has been found.

-> Previous

Go back to a previous search value that had been found.

Font -> Sans Serif -> Small

Use a small Sans Serif font.

-> Large

Use a large Sans Serif font.

-> Arial -> Small

Use a small Arial font.

-> Large

Use a large Arial font.

-> Courier New -> Small

Use a small Courier New font.

-> Large

Use a large Courier New font.

-> System

Use whatever font is the system default.

Options -> Select Play

Enter specific CD track numbers to play. Use only existing track numbers. See more detail under 'Hints and Tips'.

-> Shuffle Play

Turn on/off random playing of CD tracks. A random track can be skipped by using the track up button or menu command.

-> Continuous Play

Turn on/off CD track play as continuous. Turn this on for concept albums, or to enhance the single track play. This choice will be turned off if Shuffle play is selected.

-> Music Timer

Turn on/off the timer Play/Run windows that view CD timing. This feature is not necessary for listening enjoyment. The Play window will show track elapsed time, while the Run window shows total CD elapsed time relative to the track elapsed time, plus 2 seconds.

-> Format Edit

Turn on/off the feature to format the entry text. This will force the first letter of each word to upper case and the remaining letters of a word to lower case. Use a space to force a character to upper case if needed.

When turned off (no check mark), then data is formatted and saved to exactly what is typed in the data fields.

-> Audio Mixer

Call or execute the mixer program for your sound card. This option is set in the INI file. See INI file for more detail.

-> Window Full

Set the program window to either Full or Small.

-> Always On Top

Turn off/on function to keep the program window on top.

-> Tool Tips

Turn tooltips off/on. Only available in the 32 bit version.

Player -> Stop

Stop playing the compact disc.

-> Eject

Eject or open the CD player door if applicable.

-> Play

Begin Play or restart play of a compact disc.

-> Pause

Hold or pause play of a compact disc.

-> Skip Forward

Move the play approximately 10 seconds forward into the track.

-> Skip Back

Move the play approximately 10 seconds back in the track.

-> Track Up

Cancel current track and play the next.

-> Track Down

Cancel the current track and play the previous track.

-> Set Player #

Select the CD drive to use for playing compact music discs.

Help -> Glossary

Alphabetical listing of program information and use.

-> Contents

Base topic menu for program main menu commands.

-> Close Help File

Close or cancel the use of the program help file.

DATA ENTRY....

The database is normally in read only mode.

Select Edit from the main menu and then select New for a new record. The track times are filled in for you when the CD is read for a new database entry. The player is activated with the new CD playing. It can be turned off, or you can listen while entering the disc information.

To Edit a record, select the record, then click on EDIT, and then click on MODIFY. Answer Yes to change the record. Insert the new compact disc. Select Play. The procedure is then the same as adding a new record. The deleted record, then becomes as a new record.

The Product# field is for the bar code number. The Catalog: can be used for your own choice or for the CD number, which usually duplicates the bar code number. The remaining data fields are self explaining.

The Product# and Catalog fields allow a maximum character length of 14. Remaining entry fields allow for a length of 64 characters.

The program automaticly creates a backup file of all records as they are added to the database. This file is kept in the current directory.

Database records can be deleted, but they are never removed from the file itself. The backup file keeps a complete copy of an original record, even if the original is deleted. In the case of accidental delete, the Restore command can be used to read the backup file and then overwrite the record showing as deleted.

Please note however, if a record is modified, the modified copy is saved to the backup file, and the backup can `not' then be used to reverse the new modifications.

THE INI FILE...

The program INI file is located in the base Windows(tm) sub directory.

When you edit this file, it should be done with the Window(tm) Notepad or any text editor that will save the file as plain ASCII text. If the file is not saved properly, then it will be corrupted and will not function as necessary.

Editing of the file is required for your placing the name of the sound card mixer, that is provided by the manufacturer. This will then give you the use of calling the mixer program from within Disc Player DB. The mixer program name varies to the brand of your sound card.

Another item that can be changed is the use of a word processor to print any of the database records. Disc Player DB doesn't use a print feature and relies completely on your word processor. The default is the Windows(tm) Notepad, thus NotePad=Notepad, but could be set to NotePad=Write, to use the Windows(tm) Write word processor.

All the other settings are created or modified from the program itself or from the menu selections.

It is best if you leave the settings for the file information to be used and changed by the Disc Player program. This data is changed and saved whenever a new database file is created or opened.

If the INI file becomes corrupted for any reason, delete the old, and then start up Disc Player. Use any favourite menu settings, such a shuffle play and format edit text, and then exit the program. This will create a new ini file. You can then edit the new ini file for the naming of your word processor and system sound card.

The next page contains the default values for an ini file, when the software is installed on hard disk drive C:

```
[Program]
ProgramPath=C:\DISCDB16\DISCDB16.EXE
HelpFilePath=C:\DISCDB16\DISCDB16.HLP

[WindowsWordPro]
NotePad=NotePad.Exe      ; change this to your word processor name

[AudioMixer]
MixerName=MIXER.EXE      ; change this to your sound card mixer name

[Data]
DataDrive=C:
DataPath=\DISCDB16\
DataName=DISCDB16
DataExtention=.DAT

[Backup]
BackupDrive=C:
BackupPath=\DISCDB16\
BackupName=DISCDB16
BackupExtention=.BAK

[Error]
ErrorDrive=C:
ErrorPath=\DISCDB16\
ErrorName=DISCDB16
ErrorExtention=.ERR

[Print]
PrintDrive=C:
PrintPath=\DISCDB16\
PrintName=DISCDB16
PrintExtention=.PRT
PrintZeroTime=1

[DiscPlay]
ContinuousPlay=1
DiscTimer=0
ShufflePlay=0
PlayerDrive=0

[Font]
FontSize=2
FormatEditText=1

[Network]
UseNetwork=0      ; change this to a 1 for network use
```

HINTS & TIPS....

Single track play can be done by selecting a numbered button for the track. Non disc tracks can be selected but not played. If Continuous Play is turned on, then play will continue to the next tracks, after the single play, otherwise the player is shut off, after the selected track is finished playing.

Shuffle play is a total random process. It is unaffected by single track play, meaning, shuffle play can be turned on, and single track play can still be used. Shuffle play tracks can be skipped or scaled up by selecting track up.

Continuous Play or Shuffle Play can be turned on, but not both at the same time, however both, can be turned off.

The Select Play, is not effected by either Continuous Play or Shuffle Play being turned on. Select Play will only play tracks that exist and these can be scaled by using track up or track down. A track # that doesn't exist will cause Select play to stop all play.

The Pause button will pause play, which can be restarted by pressing the Play button, or pressing the Pause button again. Pressing Play after a track is playing, will restart the current track.

The program also contains a command line feature. It will respond to two commands, of either `shuffle' or `play'. The play command can be extended to include specific track numbers, such as play 2 4 6 8, to play only those tracks.

When a command line is used, the program loads, shows itself, checks for a compact disc, begins playing in the style requested, and then the program window is minimized.

If the program doesn't find a compact disc, it remains to being full window and then waits for your input.

The main database file has a .DAT extention. The backup file has the .BAK extention, while .ERR is used as an error file and .PRT is used for the print file extention.

A dialog box is given with the error message, should an error occur.

This software allows shared or network file access. However, each INI file is for a specific machine. This means that the software and its' database can be on another machine, but the INI file will only work with the machine that is using the program. This is done for several reasons, one of which, is to always know which sound card mixer to use on the current machine. Use a value of 1 for UseNetwork if this software will be used in a net environment.

Although the program automaticly makes a backup file with the .BAK extention, it is suggested that a backup is kept either on a floppy disk or in another drive location, as part of your regular system backup procedures. Copy over either file, if corruption occurs in either file. As example, copy the .BAK to .DAT if necessary.

There are many different CD-Rom players. Some of the older models didn't track very well, and can cause audio discs to skip/jump if there is any trace of dirt or a surface scratch on the platter itself. Follow the instructions to keep the disc clean, and the optic reader clean. High volume with external speakers, pumping solid bass will also cause tracks to skip.

If you experience a reverb echo effect when pausing or stopping play, restart the play and stop it again. This can occur if the process is interrupted by another running program under multitasking. The effect is rare, should not cause any damage, but is an ear bang.

If audio playback continues to skip or lock in a track, stop the play, remove the disc, and clean the disc surface. Finger acid, potato chip grease and other materials effect the optic reader ability.

It is hoped that this software will continue to assist you in enjoying your compact disc music collection.

Registration Agreement

Between: PMC Systems Software, And the purchaser

Name _____ LAN Name/Version _____

Address _____ Computer/Server _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Country _____ Postal Code _____

Voice Phone # (____)____-____ Fax/Data Phone # (____)____-____

Windows(tm) version _____ Date __/__/__

Please include the fee of \$20.00 in a cheque or money order. Add ten dollars to receive an enhanced version for Win95(tm) or Windows NT(tm).

The registered versions are DBF file format compatible. A conversion program is supplied to convert data from the generic file format. The DBF file format, as example, is used with FoxPro(tm), Clipper(tm) and Paradox(tm). Call or write, for more details on registration.

Send any written inquiry and registrations to:

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Any verbal inquiry can be made to the voice line at (403)230-2700 or send internet email to: pmcsys@agt.net

Internet home page: <http://www.agt.net/public/pmcsys/pmcsys.htm>

* THE LAST WORD *

DiscDB16 software was developed for the 16 bit Microsoft Windows 3.1(tm) Operating System. Another version, DiscDB32 is for the 32 bit Microsoft Win95(tm) / Windows NT(tm) Operating System(s). Microsoft Visual C (tm) was the development product of choice under either of the mentioned operating systems.

Please read the licence agreement for your purchase and mail in the software registration.

Any references to Microsoft(tm), Visual C(tm), Windows(tm), Win95(tm) Windows NT(tm) and any other trademarks are stated strictly for their notification value of trademark, and should not be considered, implied, or related to, PMC Systems Software.

Thank you for your support on this user friendly software product.

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