dbMaker 1.2
FreeWare from *OsoSoft*
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INTRODUCTION

Testing database programs, contact managers, PIMs, and mail merge tools in word processing programs can be a real chore. One of the worst problems is in creating data for use in testing. You don't want to use personal or business data, for privacy reasons, and data from other sources is often in the wrong order for the program being tested.

dbMaker solves that problem once and for all. Using *dbMaker*, you can create comma-delimited ASCII data files of any length, with an almost unlimited number of fields and up to 32,000 records. All fields are realistic in appearance, but are made up of random data. For example, dbMaker can create over 900,000 unique names for people, automatically. These names make sense, but are completely random. Similarly, you can create over 36,000 realistic, but random company names. Other commonly used fields are also created at random as well.

All common field types are available, and you can arrange them in any order, to suit any pre-designed database structure. Since the output files are standard quote-comma delimited, they are compatible with any program's import tools.

Whether you're creating data for testing software, for reviewing products for publications, or for any other reason you need structured, random data, *dbMaker* will solve your problem...quickly!

LICENSE INFORMATION

dbMaker is FreeWare. There is no registration fee for use by anyone for this program. However, you may not sell the program or use it as part of any other program or package without express written permission. Shareware distributors and BBSes, however, can distribute the program using their normal fee structure. If you distribute *dbMaker*, you must include the files, DBMAKER.EXE, DBMAKER.WRI, plus all files with the .LST extension included with the program.

Dbmaker and its documentation are protected under U.S. and foreign copyright laws. All rights are reserved.

The author of this program has made every effort to make it error-free. However, he takes no responsibility for its use by others.

For information on other *OsoSoft* programs, please see the end of this documentation.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

Dbmaker requires Windows 3.1, a mouse and hard disk, and VBRUN300.DLL.

INSTALLATION

Dbmaker was written in *Visual Basic 3.0*, so you need the VBRUN300.DLL library to use the program. If you don't already have a copy, you can download VBRUN300.ZIP from the *OsoSoft* BBS at (805) 528-3753.

Here's the installation process.

1. Copy VBRUN300.DLL to your WINDOWS\SYSTEM directory.

2. Copy DBMAKER.EXE, DBMAKER.WRI, and *.LST into another directory you want to use. It's recommended that you give *Dbmaker* it's own directory, since it looks for its files in that directory. **NOTE**: *.LST files **must** be in the same directory as DBMAKER.EXE!

3. Start *Windows*, then use the File/New menu in the program manager to add the *Dbmaker* Icon to your desktop. If you don't understand how to do this, consult your *Windows* manual. **NOTE**: If you use another program, such as *Norton Desktop for Windows,* as a program manager, you'll need to consult that program's documentation for instructions on adding a new program.

RUNNING *Dbmaker*

To start *Dbmaker*, double-click on its icon. After a brief loading period, you'll see the program's main screen. There are three list boxes, several command buttons, plus a Sample Output text box with a scroll bar. Here's how to create a random database file, using the program.

1. Select a field type in the Available Field Types list. Click the [Add Field] button, or double-click on the field type to add this field to the output lists. You'll see a dialog box asking for a field name for the output file. Either accept the proposed field name, or enter a new name. This name is used in the first record of the output file. Click OK to accept the name. You'll see the field type and field name added to the list boxes on the right. A random entry will appear in the Sample Output box at the bottom of the screen.

2. Repeat this step for each field type you want to include in the output data file.

IMPORTANT NOTE: You can use the same field type more than once in an output file. For example, you might want to include several Telephone Number fields in the output file. If you do add additional fields of the same type, *dbMaker* will prompt you for a new name, since field names should be unique.

3. To insert a field type in another location than the end of the list, select the field type, then click on the listing in the Output Field Types list just below where you want to insert the new field. Click the [Insert Field] button.

4. To remove a field from the output list, select that field type name in the Output Field Types list and click the [Remove Field] button.

5. You can also move fields up or down in the Output Field Types list. To do this, select the field type listing you want to move, then click the [Move Up] or [Move Down] button.

6. If you want to rename an output field, select the item in the Output Field Names list, then click the [Rename] button and change the name in the dialog box.

7. To clear all field types and names from the output lists, click the [Clear] button and confirm.

8. As you add, delete, or move fields, you'll always see a sample of the program's output in the text box at the bottom of the screen. Each change is automatically reflected there. Scroll the box to view data which extends to the right. To see a new sample, based on a new random selection, at any time, click the [New Sample] button.

9. To save your work in an output file, once you've set up your fields, click the [Create File] button. Enter a valid filename, including a path, if desired, in the first dialog box. Next, select how many sample records you want to create. You can create any number of records, from 1 to 32,000. If you enter a number larger than 32,000, the program will only create 32,000. Finally, the program will ask if you want to use the field names as the first record. In most cases, your answer will be [Yes], since that's how most programs expect the file to be arranged during an import.

That's it. The entire process takes just a few minutes, and you can be off testing with your new data.

MENU OPTIONS

File Menu--This menu has just one command: **Exit**.

About Menu -- You'll see **About dbMaker**, which is the usual About screen, with copyright and contact information. The **OsoSoft Program** Info command takes you to a screen which offers information on OsoSoft shareware programs and also serves as an automated order form.

FIELD TYPE DESCRIPTIONS

Here are the field types available, with descriptions of the data they produce in output files:

First_Name -- One of 200 common first names from the FIRST.LST file. Male and Female names are included.

Middle_Init -- A middle initial, followed by a period. Q, X, Y, and Z are not used.

Last_Name -- One of 200 common last names from the LAST.LST file. Most names are non-ethnic, although a small sample of ethnic names is included.

Full_Name -- A synthesis of the three names above. If used just once in the output list, it will reflect the same name as the three fields above. If you use additional name fields, subsequent Full_Names will be unique and will not reflect any other name fields.

Title -- One of 30 common personnel titles, from TITLE.LST. Some of these are blank, which represents common experience in databases.

Company -- A synthesis of three random items, a root name, an industry name, and a business type, from CORP1.LST, CORP2.LST and an internal list in the program. Examples: Blue Sky Industries, Inc. This breaks down into [Blue Sky], [Industries], and [Inc.]. Either or both of the last two items may be omitted at random for more variety.

Address1 -- A synthesis of three items: 1. A number. 2. One of 200 street names from STREET.LST. 3. A street designation. Examples: 1201 Olive St., 14219 Birch Blvd.

Address2 -- A synthesis of two items: 1. An address designator. 2. A number. Examples: Suite 101, Room 564. This field will sometime be blank.

City -- One of 200 generic city names from CITY.LST. Some are real cities which exist in more than one state, others are fictional cities.

State -- One of the 50 standard state abbreviations from STATE.LST

ZIP -- Always represented as 11111, to avoid conflicts and to identify the zip code as fictional.

ZIP+4 -- Always 11111-1111.

Country -- One of 55 country names from COUNTRY.LST. Some of these are blank. **NOTE**: Country names may not be in keeping with the city or street addresses. Use this field only for test purposes, not for sample screens.

Phone_Num -- Always 555-555-5555 to avoid actual phone numbers and confusion.

Extension -- A random number with up to four digits.

Random_Date -- A random date in mm-dd-yyyy format. This date will always be within 200 days of the current system date.

Record_Number -- A sequential number corresponding to the order of the records in the output file.

15_Char_Text -- Always "ABCDEFGHIJKLMNO"

30_Char_Text -- Always "AaBbCcDdEeFfGgHhIiJjKkLlMmNnOo"

Money -- A random dollar figure up to $9999.999 with leading dollar sign.

Random_Num<100 -- A random number from 01 to 99 with leading zeros.

Random_Num<10000 -- A random number from 0001 to 9999 with leading zeros.

Blank_Field -- Just what it says...an empty field. Use this to handle fields which can't be filled with any of the other field types.

OTHER WAYS TO USE dbMAKER

dbMaker can do some interesting things which might not be immediately apparent. Here's a short list of other ways to use the program.

1. Name Generator -- By inserting just a Full_Name field, then using the [New Sample] button, you can step through an almost endless list of unique personal names for use in fiction or in sample documents.

2. City Name Generator -- Follow the steps above with the City field.

3. Address Generator -- As above with the Address1 field type.

4. Company Name Generator -- As above. This one's interesting. The three elements which make up the company names have been selected to be generic but interesting. You'll find lots of interesting names generated by the program.

5. Spreadsheet generator -- Since most spreadsheets will comma-delimited files, you can use dbMaker's numeric field types to generate data for sample spreadsheets.

MODIFYING dbMAKER

You can edit the LST files used by *dbMaker* to suit your own needs, if desired. They are simple ASCII files, with one entry on each line. Edit them in Windows Notepad or any other ASCII editor. There are a few cautions to follow, however:

These files vary in the number of entries they hold. Several hold 200 entries, while others hold 50 or less. If you add additional entries to the list, *dbMaker* will ignore those after the limit for that file. If you decrease the number of entries in a file, *dbMaker* will run, but will create blank data for the missing entries, causing incomplete output files. Here is a list of files, with their number of entries. Make sure edited files have at least this many entries.

FIRST.LST -- 200

LAST.LST -- 200
STREET.LST -- 200
CORP1.LST -- 200
CITY.LST -- 200
COUNTRY.LST -- 55
STATE.LST -- 50
CORP2.LST -- 30
TITLE.LST -- 30

NOTE: LST files used in *dbMaker* must be in the same directory where DBMAKER.EXE is located.

OTHER PROGRAMS

OsoSoft offers a number of other Freeware and Shareware Products you may find of interest. If you enjoyed working with *Dbmaker*, you'll want to look at some of these other applications. These are listed below. You can find the latest versions of these programs on Compuserve, in various forums. To find all my files, use Compuserve's IBM File Finder, searching for my CIS ID: 71571,222.

You can also download these programs from The *OsoSoft* BBS at (805) 528-3753. Anyone may log on to this system and download files immediately. Just follow the screen prompts. The *OsoSoft* BBS supports modem speeds from 300 to 14400 bps. Set your communications parameters to 8/N/1.

OsoSoft also publishes a number of free programs, like *Dbmaker*, which you're welcome to try and use at no charge. You can find all *OsoSoft* programs on the *OsoSoft* BBS. Set your communications parameters to 300-14400 bps, 8 bits, No parity, and 1 stop bit. You can download any *OsoSoft* program on the first call. You can also find *OsoSoft* programs on CompuServe in the WINADV and IBMHW forums. Many shareware distributors also carry *OsoSoft* programs.

All *OsoSoft* programs come with a 100%, unlimited money-back guarantee. If you're ever not satisfied, your registration fee will be refunded. Registered users receive printed documentation, the latest version of the program, and are entitled to free support by telephone, FAX, BBS, and on CompuServe E-mail. If you see an *OsoSoft* program that sounds useful, try it out or just order a copy. You're protected by the money-back guarantee.

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