
HM - Card

Version 1.4

Viewer

User's Manual

These pages represent a documentation (user guide) to the viewer. Any questions will be promptly answered via e-mail: nsherbak@iicm.tu-graz.ac.at.

0. Getting started

When the viewer is executed without additional parameters (see section 3), the "open database" dialogue box (below) appears.

If a database already exists in the current directory then the file name "hmc card.dbs" automatically appears in the edit box "Select Database". Other sub-directories can be selected as the working directory using standard windows navigation. Click OK to open the selected database.

After opening a database, the "Select current S-collection" dialogue box (below) appears.

In order to start viewing a collection, an S-collection should be selected as an initial current container.

The initial current container can be selected by using this dialogue box and opened by clicking the OK button.

1. Link-Based Browsing of Hypermedia databases.

Hypermedia database created by HM-Card consist of S-Collections which include information pages, i.e. chunks of multimedia information combined into a computer-navigable logical structure. Any S-collection can be visualised, or displayed. Normally, during the visualisation of an S-collection, the content is shown. Where the current S-collection is devoid of a content, the head of the S-collection is visualised instead. At any particular moment in time, the user can

navigate only through a single, specific S-collection called the *current container*. Thus, only members of the current container can be accessed during navigation and links within the current container serve as a navigational paradigm. Within the current container, the member currently being visualised is called the *current member*. Only members related (linked) to the current member can be accessed in any step of navigation.

Navigation within a particular current container is carried out in accordance with its type.

A "**folder**" has only the links to next and previous members available for each step of navigation .

A "**menu**", collection has links from the head member to all other members. However, the visualisation of the links depends on the sub-type. There are four forms of link visualisation: a scrollable list, 'hot' areas, buttons or 'hot' words. Thus, a certain link is activated by the method dictated by the corresponding anchor. For instance, a link can be activated by pressing a button, clicking on a 'hot' word or on a 'hot' area.

When a member of a menu collection is a current member, only a link leading back to head is available, using the return button .

An "**envelope**" collection has links to all members available in the form of a scrollable list.

Links are activated by selecting a collection name from the list.

The "**freelink**" collections have the links visualised in a form which depends on the sub-type: by scrollable list, 'hot' areas, buttons or 'hot' words. Thus, activation of a link is dependent on the collection type, as with the S-collections of type "menu".

The current member can be "Zoom_In" using the zoom in button .

The operation Zoom_In changes the status of the current member to the current

container. After a Zoom_In operation, the head of the (new) current container automatically becomes the current member and is visualised appropriately i.e. the corresponding content or head is visualised.

Note that in the DEMO-example which is provided with basic version of the system, all navigational operations have been customised. This possibility of customisation of a navigational paradigm allows the development of hypermedia databases which can be browsed by users having no idea how the HM-Data Model operates.

The "Zoom_Out" μ \S operation is the complement of Zoom_In. It restores the current container and member to their state previous to the *most recent* Zoom_In.

In addition to the basic navigational paradigm which is provided by "activate links", the "Zoom_In" and "Zoom_Out" operations, there are a number of additional navigational tools:

The repeat button resets a members display and repeats the visualisation of the current S-Collection.

If a particular page includes "pause" objects, visualisation of such page is interrupted and the system will show these three buttons .

The continue button recommences visualisation of the page.

The skip button skips all following objects.

The "Zoom_Up" button , associated with the Zoom_In and Zoom_Out buttons, provides the possibility to "switch" the current member from one container to another, which has the current collection defined as member as well. After pressing this button a list of all such containers appears:

In order to switch navigation into another container, select the desired container and click the "continue browsing" button .

Note that after performing this operation the current member is not changed and the page visualised on the screen is the same, but further navigation is carried out within the new current container.

The button bookmark activates bookmarks attached to the current container. In order to access an S-collection marked with a particular bookmark, select the desired bookmark name from the list.

The button information button gives details about the current position within the database and other collection information.

History: a list of all S-collections which have been "Zoomed In" during navigation. Note that the operation "Zoom Out" removes an S-collection from this list. Thus, we can say that the history is a list of all currently "Opened" S-collections.

Current S-collection: name and parameters of the current container:

-Name of a **current member**, all members of the current container are shown below:

The section **owners:** gives a list of all S-collections where the current member has been defined as a member as well. It is a list of S-collections where the navigation can be "switched to" by means of the "Zoom Up" operation.

2. Additional tools

Additional tools are accessed via the tools button and make the following buttons available:

The screen size button appears if current resolution of the user's screen is not the

same as that used for preparation of the visual multimedia information.

The database button allows the selection of a new database for further browsing.

The identify button registers the user to the system. The user must be known to the system in order to successfully identify themselves.

System names and passwords are installed by an administrator via the known users button . In order to install a new system user name and password, the administrator has to know the administrator name and password. These details are properties particular to each installation diskette.

If you are working with the freeware version of HM-Card, please use "**ADM**" as the administrator name and "**IICM**" as the password.

The annotate button provides a window where annotation may be attached to the current S-collection. Note that only previously registered users are allowed to annotate S-collections.

For presentation purposes, the cursor can be transformed into a "live pen" and used to draw on the screen. Click and hold the right mouse button down to draw on the screen with the mouse. The foreground colour button is used to adjust the style, width and colour of these lines. Note that accessing the foreground colour window erases previously drawn lines.

In order to directly modify a page visualised on the screen, the edit button can be used. The button "switches" from the viewer to the "editor" program.

The viewer supports "Macro" commands or predefined tours. A macro is a sequence of navigational actions which can be repeated automatically. Each macro has a unique name, and is stored in a special library. A macro is recorded (written) by means of the record macro button . After pressing this button, the image on the screen is refreshed (re-visualised) and the system switches to "recording macro" mode. Now all the users actions are recorded, until the record macro button is pressed again. The following window allows a newly created macro to be named and store it in the macro library.

Previously recorded macros can be executed (read) by means of the read macro

button .

In order to execute or delete previously defined macros, select the desired macro from the list.

Click the execute button to run the macro or the delete button to delete it.

The screen size button changes the size of page visualisation. Normally pages are visualised at the same resolution as they were created. So if current resolution is higher than resolution used for page creation, only part of the screen is actually used. Worse, if the current screen is smaller than the creation size, only a part of original information is visible. This button re-adjusts image to the current screen resolution.

The collection file button allows the user to select a new current container directly, by its name or using keyword search. S-collections can be provided with keywords via this button as well. When the button is pressed the following window appears:

3. Options of the viewer.

When the Viewer is executed from the command line, running options can be specified. The general format for the command line is as follows:

hmc_exec.exe [options]

The specified options are themselves optional and can be left out if desired.

The following options are available:

- r** registration of new users (identification).
- a** database in the current directory is automatically opened;

- a**<S-collection> database in the current directory is automatically opened and navigation begins using the collection (S-collection) as the current container.
- h** standard navigational tools are switched off and browsing is carried out by means of user-defined buttons only.
- s** browsing is carried out in the full screen mode, automatic adjusting images to the available resolution (see section 2)
- w** HM-Card presentations are executed in a moveable, resizable window.

4. Viewer's hot-keys.

ALT/F4 - exit;

ALT/F5 -switches from standard screen mode to full screen mode.

ALT/F8 - toggles the standard navigational tools on and off.

ALT/F9 - starts/stops recording a new macro.

ALT/F10 - selects a macro for execution.

Exit - terminate macro or animation execution.

Space bar - skips to the next member.

4. HM-Card .ini file.

[Graphic]

BMP=Windows 3.0 Bitmap .BMP

PCX=ZSoft Image Format .PCX

GIF=GIF Picture Format .GIF

LPA=IIG Picture Format .LPA

[Fonts]

FontForEditControl=

<name of a font substituting system font>

Language=

[Options]

HideButtons=

<yes or no>

Window=

<yes, no or desirable size of window in the form:"offset x","offset y","size x","size y">

AutoStart=

<name of a starting S-collection>

BackGround=

<name of a page used as a standard background>