

# WAMPUM for Windows

## User's Guide

Copyright Ward Mundy, 1993, 1994. All Rights Reserved.

This is the .9 beta version of WAMPUM for Windows. It is almost "soup." This final beta version is being released to obtain comment from the broadest possible group of users before official release of version 1. We don't believe in buggy version 1's ... nor buggy version .9's for that matter. All users registering before release of version 1 will automatically receive the version 1 software immediately upon release at no additional charge. We will honor the \$39 prerelease price through the end of 1994.

This software supports all dBASE III and dBASE III Plus-compatible data bases and Clipper (Summer 87 and 5.0) indexes only. In short, it is fully compatible with the DOS-based shareware versions of WAMPUM as well as registered Clipper-compatible versions WAMPUM: 3.3C, 4.0C, 4.1C, 4.2C, and 4.5C. Those wishing to switch from the dBASE versions of WAMPUM may do so for a modest \$20 upgrade fee.

WAMPUM for Windows is designed as the natural complement to our DOS-based product. It provides an extremely versatile data base engine for visual display of dBASE data in either spreadsheet or record edit/display mode. The data bases can be used inter-changeably between the DOS and Windows products with the single exception that .PCX images in the DOS product cannot be displayed in the Windows product, and .BMP images in the Windows product cannot be displayed in the DOS product. For most users, this will not be a serious impediment. Configuration files linking indexes to data bases also have different formats; however, the new configuration file can be saved in seconds.

The Windows version is *not* intended to replace the DOS product. While it provides powerful display and edit capabilities, it does not include a report writer at this juncture since the performance hit for generating reports within the Windows graphical environment remains somewhat painful. We recommend our DOS product for any task which requires printed output such as reports, mailing labels, and form letters. For developer functions such as creation of data bases and index files, these currently are available in our DOS product only; however, data bases and indexes can be rebuilt and packed using the new Windows product. File and index creation as well as import/export will be incorporated into version 1 of the Windows version. *We recommend you obtain BOTH the DOS and Windows versions of WAMPUM. This provides the most complete data base platform available in the PC marketplace today!*

For network users, the record-locking schemes in our DOS and Windows products are compatible. On both Novell and NetBIOS-compatible networks, the products can be used simultaneously with no adverse effects. Automatic record locking occurs whenever data is changed in any record being displayed. Be advised that, as of this writing, there still appears to be a problem with record locking in Novell's NETX shell for MS-DOS

## ***CAUTION TO USERS!!***

This is a BETA product and should be used accordingly. **NO WARRANTIES EXPRESS OR IMPLIED ARE PROVIDED WITH THIS SOFTWARE. BY USING THE SOFTWARE, YOU AGREE TO ASSUME ALL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH USE OF THE SOFTWARE. ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES INCLUDING FITNESS FOR PARTICULAR USE AND MERCHANTABILITY ARE EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMED.** In Plain English, make sure your data is backed up and don't do dangerous things like running multiple copies of WAMPUM for Windows. We have tested this version with very large data bases, and so long as one data base is opened at a time, it is a very stable and reliable product. If you prefer to live on the wild side, you should be prepared to retrieve your valuable data from your trusty backup which hopefully is near by.

## **Supported Functions**

The following functions are currently supported both by pull-down menus and by button bar icons.

- (1) File Open -- Opens any dBASE III-compatible data base without conversion
- (2) Field Select -- Permits a user to narrow down the number of fields displayed and to specify whether fields are read-only
- (3) File Close -- Closes a dBASE III-compatible data base
- (4) Index Open -- Opens a Clipper-compatible .NTX index file (*NOTE: The index expression must evaluate to character data in the Windows product!*)
- (5) Index Open -- Permits choice of lead index from 7 open index files
- (6) Index Select -- Let you select the current lead index (i.e. sort order)
- (7) Index Close -- Only supported as part of File Close at this point
- (8) Browse /Edit -- Supported with table mode (spreadsheet) or record mode
- (9) Configuration Retrieve/Save -- Stores .DBF, .NTX, fields, and buttons

(10) Disable Keys -- Permits developer to disable any of above functions

(11) Utilities -- Allows reindexing and packing of data bases and memo fields.

*WARNING: Do NOT attempt to pack data bases containing .BMP pictures with the DOS product as this will DESTROY the images in the memo fields.*

## **Browse Modes**

In Browse (Table Mode), the user can move horizontally and vertically through an entire data base with the cursor keys or mouse. If the data is indexed, typing the first few characters of the key field will move the record pointer to the appropriate record. Pressing <ENTER> "marks" the desired position in the data base. Selecting Browse (Record Mode) provides a formatted record view of the record selected in Table Mode. An icon also permits the user to enter any desired key to retrieve. *Both the table and record mode browsers are incredibly powerful. For reading and editing dBASE data bases, you'll be hard pressed to find an easier, more powerful, or quicker product in either the shareware or commercial market.*

Memo fields are supported in record mode only. Simply position the cursor on the MEMO field using the <Tab> key or mouse. Then double-click on the field with the left mouse button. Empty memo fields show the word "*memo*" beside the name of the memo field. Memo fields containing dBASE-compatible memo text display "*MEMO*" beside the name of the memo field. WAMPUM for Windows also supports inclusion of standard Windows .BMP pictures in memo fields. A memo field containing a bit map image will display "*PICTURE*" beside the name of the memo field.

Double-clicking on a memo field does different things depending upon the contents of the memo field. If the field is empty (i.e. *memo*), you will be asked whether you wish to import a picture into the memo field. If you answer Yes, you will receive the standard Windows file dialog box from which to select a .BMP image for import. If you answer No, a memo editor will display a window in which you may type text for the memo field. Double-clicking on a memo field which already contains memo text (i.e. *MEMO*) will also activate the memo editor in a window. Choose File/Save to save your edited memo text. Double-click on the Control Button to close the memo editor without saving your work. If the memo field contains a bit map image (i.e. *PICTURE*), then double-clicking on the field will display the picture in a Window which can be positioned as you desire. To delete the contents of a memo field, position the cursor on the field and press <Ctrl-Del> to erase the word MEMO or PICTURE from the field. Then <Tab> to another field.

WAMPUM for Windows enforces validation rules applicable to the various field types. Since Windows operates in INSERT-mode, *you cannot enter more data in a field than that permitted by the field type*. For example, if a field contains 10/10/93 as a valid date, any attempt to type another date will fail until the original data is first deleted. This can be done in the usual ways. We recommend <Ctrl-Del> as the quickest way to clear a field. Similarly, if a logical field contains Y, you cannot simply type an N. You must first delete the Y. It is not as painful as it may appear at first blush, and the extra step serves as a "second chance" to avoid erasing important data.

Finally, you should be aware of how WAMPUM for Windows handles reading and writing of data to disk. First, when you open a file in WAMPUM for Windows, it stays open until you either exit the program or close the file. This differs from the DOS product which automatically closes data bases whenever the user returns to the Main Menu. WAMPUM for Windows automatically imposes a record lock whenever *any* data is changed on a data entry screen. When the record pointer is moved or a memo field is activated, all changes on the existing screen are saved to the file ... but not necessarily written to disk. Windows, itself, handles when data is actually written to disk. Depending upon the memory in your system, incredible amounts of data may accumulate in memory before actually being written to disk. For this reason, we recommend you periodically close and reopen your data base if you will be performing heavy data entry tasks.

## **Configuration (.CFG) Files**

WAMPUM for Windows configuration files permit you to save a setup for later retrieval. This setup includes the name of the primary data bases, all associated indexes which have been opened, a listing of field selections, and a listing of menu functions which should be disabled when the configuration is retrieved. The configuration files are not compatible with the DOS versions of WAMPUM. Users are cautioned not to manually tinker with the configuration files which are written by the WAMPUM for Windows software. This will almost certainly result in system problems down the road. Should a configuration file become corrupted, simply choose the data base and indexes again and resave the configuration using the old file name.

## **Field Selections**

By choosing File/Select Fields, you can narrow down the group of fields which are displayed in either table or record view Browse mode. This is helpful at times when you are dealing with a data base with literally hundreds of fields. Depending upon system memory, WAMPUM for Windows supports dBASE data bases with field counts up to 500. The dBASE III standard limited the number of fields to 128. WAMPUM for DOS supports over 400 fields if you have sufficient memory to support it.

## **Additional Documentation**

Additional documentation is contained in a number of .DOC files which accompany this software. You should begin by reading README.DOC which explains how and where to install the software. The REGISTER.DOC file contains a registration form for your use. The VENDOR.DOC file explains the terms under which the software can be distributed to others. Last, but not least, the SHAREWAR.DOC file explains what shareware is all about. All of these .DOC files can be printed by typing *COPY \*.DOC PRN* at the DOS prompt in the directory where you installed the software. Once version 1 is released, we will have our customarily good documentation. We hope you will find the product easy enough to use to avoid ever having to refer to it.

## **What's Next???**

As a beta product, WAMPUM for Windows is offered to give a sneak preview of what lies ahead. We obviously welcome your suggestions preferably by mail. The address is Ward Mundy Software, P.O. Box 1169, Atlanta, GA 30301. Or log into our BBS at any time. The number is 706/746-5109.

Enjoy!