DBF2STN 2.0: The Stickies! dbf III Converter

Introduction

DBF2STN is a utility that converts dbf III files into Stickies! export files that are compatible with all versions of Stickies! up to and including v2.0.

DBF2STN has the following limitations and characteristics:

* It will read and convert *only* dbf III format files. Not dbf II, not dbf IV, not any other database format, just dbf III. Any other file format will be detected and rejected by DBF2STN.

* Each record in the dbf file is converted into a separate note in the export file.

* The dbf III file must contain only two fields. The first must be a character field, and the second must be a memo field. DBF2STN will use the first field as the note's title and the second as the body of text in the note. Default values will be used for all other settings and options in the notes, such as color, screen position, size, etc. Only the first 40 characters of the first field will be used for the title, and any record with a blank first field will result in a note with a blank title (which is perfectly acceptable to Stickies!). Up to 16,384 bytes of each memo field will be used. DBF2STN does not care what you name the fields.

* A maximum of 1,000 dbf records can be converted into notes in a single Stickies! export file, since STN files are limited to that many notes.

* Records that have been deleted but still exist in the dbf file will be skipped. (For those who might not realize it, the dbf file format allows a program to delete records without actually removing them from the file. The records are simply marked as deleted and left in the file until you "condense" the file with your database program. If you want to convert these deleted records into Stickies! notes, you'll have to use your data base program to undelete them first.)

DBF2STN is normally distributed as a DOS-mode, self-extracting archive that was created with LHA 2.13. LHA is copyright 1988-91 by Haruyasu Yoshizaki.

Using DBF2STN

Converting dbf files to Stickies! export files is a two-stage process:

* First, you must convert your data into a dbf III file in the two-field format described above. How you do this is determined by which of the countless programs you're using that can create dbf III files. Obviously, we couldn't test DBF2STN with every such program, but we did test it with dbf III files created by several programs, and found no problems. If you find a program that creates a dbf III file that DBF2STN cannot process correctly, please get in touch with us. We'll want to know which program created the file, and we'll want a copy of the dbf file.

* Second, you use DBF2STN to convert your dbf file into a Stickies! export file. The easiest way to do this is to move the dbf and dbt files into the same directory with DBF2STN, and then run DBF2STN. It will prompt you for the name of the (input) DBF file and the (output) STN file you want to create. (If the files are in different directories, you can type in the fully qualified names when DBF2STN prompts you (e.g. C:\MYDATA\FRED instead of just FRED).) If DBF2STN finds something it can't handle, such as a file that's not in dbf III format, or an input file with more than 1,000 records, or you provide an input file name with an extension other than .DBF, it will tell you what's wrong and stop. Otherwise, it will perform the conversion and create an STN file that you can then import into Stickies!. That's about all there is to it.

A Note on Version Numbers

Even though this is the first release of DBF2STN, its version number is 2.0. This is in keeping with our practice of making all the Stickies! utilities we release use the same version number as the current version of Stickies!. This is our way of minimizing the confusion over compatibility issues, but we could be overly optimistic.

Technical Support

Even though this release of DBF2STN is freeware, we urge users to report any problems they have with the program, or send us comments and suggestions for future releases. We can be reached at:

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