

INFO,C,77

TOPIC : PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

StarSearcher(tm) is a CONTACT MANAGEMENT/PRODUCTIVITY system designed for professional entertainers. With StarSearcher, you have instant access to the names, addresses and phone numbers of hundreds of booking agents & industry contacts both American and International. The Shareware Version of StarSearcher comes with a database of 500 industry contacts. Registration only costs \$35.00 US, and with it, the REGISTERED USER receives the latest version of StarSearcher along with a database containing an ADDITIONAL 3500 names of Talent & Booking Agents, and other industry contacts.

StarSearcher is much more than just a database!

StarSearcher contains a built in PHONE DIALER, a TEXT EDITOR for creating letters, and the ability to MERGE DATA from your database to these letters. Letters sent are automatically logged to the contact, as are phone calls, when made using the built in phone dialer.

A Full Featured APPOINTMENT SCHEDULER, with the ability to PRINT 6 MONTH BOOKING CALENDARS, and a TO DO list provide additional functionality. With StarSearcher, keeping track of your career has never been easier!

TOPIC : WHAT'S NEW

Now in it's third release, StarSearcher (v 1.3) has undergone a number of significant changes:

- * StarSearcher will run under Windows 3.1 (tm) Microsoft Corp. as a DOS APPLICATION.
- * StarSearcher v1.3 is FASTER on all counts. User's with slower 8088-80286 machines will notice a dramatic increase in program speed. Ver. 1.3 is as much as 1000% faster on some operations.
- * StarSearcher v1.3 is SMALLER. FREE RAM requirements are now only 570K. Some import/export features have been moved to the companion program STARPORT 1.2 which is provided at no cost for registered users.
- * StarSearcher v1.3 now features MOUSE SUPPORT. While not required, a Microsoft (tm) compatible mouse is fully supported.
- * StarSearcher v1.3 PERSONAL DATABASE now supports all of the features of the Master Database, including Contact tracking, Notes, etc.

TOPIC : WHAT'S NEW (Cont.)

Sheet1

Check Boxes. The operator may use the UP/DOWN or LEFT/RIGHT ARROWS to move from button to button. When the appropriate selection is highlighted, the operator may press the ENTER key to select that item. Each menu selection has a Highlighted PICK CHARACTER which may be entered on the keyboard to go directly to that selection. Mouse users can click on the desired selection or press the RIGHT MOUSE BUTTON to Quit.

Some menus have up/dn arrows on the right corners. These menus allow the operator to use the PGUP/PGDN keys or mouse click on these arrows to scroll a list box on the screen or to skip records.

The third type of menu is a Check Box. The Up/Down Arrow keys will move the cursor from option to option. Pressing ENTER selects the option with the cursor in it. Pressing ESC abandons the check box. Mouse users may use the Left Mouse button for ENTER and the Right Mouse button for ESC .
TOPIC : EXITING THE PROGRAM

As with any database system, it is very important to exit StarSearcher properly. Files must be closed and data must be written to the hard drive upon exiting the system. Therefore it is important that the operator always exits StarSearcher by Selecting the FILES Pulldown menu and then QUIT.

**FAILURE TO USE THIS METHOD CAN RESULT IN LOSS OF DATA.
NEVER TURN OFF THE COMPUTER WHILE THE SYSTEM IS RUNNING!**

Some computers utilize a disk caching system that delays the writing of data to the harddrive (ie. SMARTDRV) until the cache is full. Most of these caching programs allow the operator to turn this feature off. There is a known problem with MS-DOS 6.0 (tm) where some files are not written after exiting an application.

In the event that a power failure occurs while in StarSearcher, some index files may become corrupted. If this occurs, run the UTILS - INDEX RE-BUILD.

WE STRONGLY URGE ALL USERS OF STARESEARCHER TO MAKE FREQUENT BACKUPS AND WE ENCOURAGE THE USE OF AN UNINTERRUPTABLE POWER SUPPLY (battery backup).

TOPIC : DOS INSTALLATION

StarSearcher comes with an installation program called SETUP.EXE that will copy the appropriate files to the drive and directory of your choice.

You may manually install StarSearcher by creating a subdirectory on the desired drive (we recommend C:\STAR) and then creating a sub-subdirectory called \DATA where all data and index files must be placed.

All .EXE , .COM, .CFG , .FRM, and .LBL files must reside in the C:\STAR directory. The .DBF file PALETTE.DBF must also be placed in this directory.

Sheet1

All other .DBF files must be placed in the \DATA subdirectory.

Additionally, your config.sys file should contain the commands;

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FILES = 45 (or greater)
BUFFERS= 32 (or greater)
```

Once installed, StarSearcher may be started by entering the C:\STAR sub directory and typing STAR [ENTER] or STARVGA [ENTER] for VGA computers.

Custom setup of the StarSearcher system is accomplished by entering the CHANGE SETUP module in the UTILS pulldown menu.

TOPIC : WINDOWS INSTALLATION

You may also install StarSearcher from within Windows. From the Program Manager, select the FILE pulldown menu. Select RUN and supply the Drive letter and install program name (ie, A:SETUP.EXE).

Once all files are copied to your hard drive you may then create a new program GROUP by selecting NEW from the FILES pulldown menu in the Program Manager. Enter in the group Name (ie, STARSEARCHER) and a Group file name (IE, STARSRCH) or let WINDOWS name it for you.

Click on the New Program Group Icon and MAXIMIZE it. Select the FILE Pulldown menu and select NEW. Select PROGRAM ITEM and click on OK. Under Description type STARSEARCHER. Under Command line type STARVGA.COM. Then type in the WORKING DIRECTORY. The WORKING directory is the directory where you instructed the SETUP program to install StarSearcher (ie. C:\STAR).

You may change the Default MS-DOS icon by selecting one of the Default icons used by the PROGRAM MANAGER or by selecting the STARS.ICO icon provided with StarSearcher and found in the WORKING DIRECTORY.

You should then repeat the steps above with STARPVGA.COM to install the StarPort Utilities program. StarSearcher will now run under Windows.

TOPIC : VGA FONTS & CGA SNOW

VGA monitor users may start StarSearcher by typing STARVGA [ENTER] to use the special VGA FONTS (Note: Some EGA monitors may also work).

The VGA font program (VGAFONT.COM) may be used when using other programs, although no guarantee of compatibility is made by CDC. This VGA font is removed upon exiting StarSearcher, but may be re-activated by typing VGAFONT ENTER . To deactivate this font, issue any video mode (ie, MODE CO80) DOS command.

Some early CGA monitors may produce SNOW during screen writes. This is a common problem, and if you have a CGA monitor, you probably already know if this will be a problem.

filters in the CHANGE SETUP module. °C CASTING DIR. °
°D CRUISE LINES °

Whenever a FILTER field is presented in StarSearcher °E AMUSEMENT PK °
the operator may enter a [?] and a picking list of all °F FAIR/FEST °
available filters will appear. Highlight the filter °G COMEDY CLUBS °
desired and press [ENTER]. The filter code will be entered into the field for you. The first selection in °I THEATRES °
this list is always NO FILTER. You may also directly °J SHOW PRODUCR °
enter the filter code (A-Z). °K PERF ARTS °

°L PERSONAL MGR °

Filters may be used to VIEW specific types of records °M CASINOS °
and in the generation of REPORTS or in the EXPORTING of È¼ data.
data.

Unsigned filters (S-Z) may be assigned `on the fly'. Select any filter
with `Not Assigned' from the list and press ENTER. You may then enter a new
description. See [CHANGE SETUP] - DEFINE FILTERS for more information.
TOPIC : CONTACT HX - [C'TACT]

É¼ CONTACT HISTORY y¼»

Each database record may have an unlimited °05/22/93 LETTER # 2 SENT °
number of CONTACT HISTORY RECORDS. Some of °
these records are automatically generated by °
the MAIL MERGE and PHONE DIALER modules. You °
may manually ADD/EDIT/DEL these records from °
the [C'TACT] menu. °

Notes may be added to any History record. °

Contacts with notes attached are displayed °
with a û beside them. Phone calls are high- °
lighted. °

È¼

É¼ CONTACTS Í¼»

° ° Date : / / °
° ° Desc : °
° ÔBB Ô Call ? : N °
° Ô ADD EDIT KILL DIAL NOTE QUIT Ô °
° ÔUU Ô °

È¼

TOPIC : NOTES
É¼A Comic Cafe Í¼05/22/93¼»

- ° 1 A note of up to 15 lines may be added to any contact history record °
- ° 2 using the built in text editor. This editor is also used for create- °
- ° 3 ing longer (45 line) letters when accessed from the UTILS - ADD/EDIT °
- ° 4 LETTERS menu selection °
- ° 5 °
- ° 6 This editor features word wrapping, Insert/Typeover modes, Tabs, and °

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o 7 line/char deletion.
o 8
o .
o .
o .
o15
o 0[...5...10...15...20...25...30...35...40...45...50...55...60...65...]0
|
o PGDN PGDN Next/Prev Scrn F8 Delete Line INS Toggle Insert
o HOME END Start/End Line DEL Delete Char F4 Center Text
o F5 Close Up Paragraph ESC Exit/Save
È
Typeover mode NOTE EDITOR Screen 1 of 1

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TOPIC : DIAL

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È»É CONTACT HISTORY y»
oName : A Comic Cafe 0005/29/93 1(404)956-7827 @13:20
oAddress: 1215 Powers Ferry Road 0005/22/93 LETTER # 2 SENT
oC/S/Z : Marietta GA 30067
o
oPhone # 1 : 1-(404)956-7827
oPhone # 2 : -( ) -
oType : Comedy Clb
oContact :
oSalutation: `Dear :(Optional)
oFilter : G TAGGED: N
È

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È DIALER È»
o
o (ù) 1-(404)-956-7827
o ÛBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBBÛ ( ) 1-956-7827
o Û 1ST # 2ND # QUIT Û ( ) 956-7827
o ÛUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUUÛ
ÈÈÍ ENTER -DIALS ESC -QUITS Í¼

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TOPIC : DIAL (Cont.)

The Dialer function requires that a Hayes (tm) compatible modem be installed (1200 baud or faster) attached to either the COM1/COM2/COM3 or COM4 serial port and you must have set your COM port using the CHANGE SETUP menu.

When Selecting a number to dial, three formats are displayed. Use the <-> keys or Mouse to select the proper format. This feature allows the program to dial local or long distance numbers.

Once dialed, the operator is instructed to pick up the receiver and is given the option of logging this call. In the event of a wrong number or of

Sheet1

A. You have started StarSearcher with the VGA switch without first loading the VGAFONT.COM program into memory. Use the STARVGA.COM startup program for VGA machines and STAR.COM for all others.

Q. I have EMS memory. Can I use it?

A. Yes. Up to 64 K of EMS memory is automatically used by StarSearcher.

Q. My printer prints `garbage' when I print the BOOKING SCHEDULE.

A. Your printer does not support the extended ASCII character set. Change the [USE IBM CHAR SET] to `N'. Also, you may need to change the printer setup. The default is for an IBM PROPRINTER.

TOPIC : COMMON QUESTIONS ANSWERED (cont.)

Q. I get a an Incompatible Mouse driver warning upon startup.

A. StarSearcher requires a mouse/driver combination that is Microsoft compatible. Some third party mouse drivers are not compatible. Upon start up, StarSearcher looks for a mouse driver. If it finds one it issues an illegal command. If it is accepted the mouse driver is not fully compatible and mouse support is disabled.

Q. My computer seems to run a little slow. What can I do?

A. Several things. First, Defrag your harddrive. DOS 6.0+ and many 3rd party utils can do this for you. Second, Re-Index your files. This will PACK (delete) records marked for deletion. Third, avoid using Compressed drives (ie. Dblspace) as they will slow any database system. Fourth, disable the DUEL WINDOW DISPLAY under Setup.

Q. I sometimes get a screen `artifact' stuck on my screen. What gives?

A. A few TSR programs can trap `artifacts' under the mouse cursor when they pop up. Avoid those TSR's that do this if you can. This is a `cosmetic' problem, and should not affect your data.

TOPIC : ABOUT COSTON DEV CORP

Coston Dev. Corp has been providing custom database software for IBM & COMPATIBLE computers for more than a decade. Working in DBXL/QUICKSILVER (tm) Wordtech, CLIPPER 5.2 (tm) Computer Associates, and QUICKBASIC (tm) Microsoft, we have produced dozens of applications programs.

Michael Coston, the owner and President, is a boat bum living aboard a sailboat with his wife Cheryl, on St. Pete Beach, Fla.

`Banjo' Jim Coston is a professional entertainer with a long list of credits both in the United States and abroad. When not on tour, Jim lives

Sheet1

in the French Quarter of New Orleans and frequents the major BBS's.

Much of the credit for this software must go to Jim Coston. The original concept was his, as were dozens of ideas for features and the compilation of the database information.

Cheryl Coston contributed both ideas and countless hours of debugging & testing time, plus she put up with me on my `bad' programming days.

StarSearcher would never have been completed without their substantial efforts.

TOPIC : FOR PROGRAMMERS ONLY

StarSearcher was written entirely in DBXL 1.3 and Compiled using Quick-Silver 1.3, both fine products of what used to be WordTech Systems. Alas, WordTech is no longer in the XBASE business, having sold their compiler to BORLAND, who promptly ditched it.

Many programmers are surprised to learn that no external programming libraries were used in creating this product. The mouse driver, Dialer and many other low level functions are pure DBXL code.

Over the years CDC has created an extensive library of custom `Objects' that provide advanced functions within the XBASE language. Some are DBXL specific, while others run under DBASE (tm) BORLAND , ARAGO (tm) BORLAND, and other XBASE environments.

TOPIC : CONTACTING COSTON DEV

For the foreseeable future, our address is :

COSTON DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 66281
ST. PETE BEACH, FL 33736

We may also be contacted via E-Mail on GENIE. My address is M.COSTON

Our COMPUSERVE E-MAIL address is 70670,156.

We are also available for custom programming projects.

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