

Dir2DBF Directory Lister

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Partial Copyright Microsoft. A Visual Basic Application

Introductory

The Dir2DBF Directory Lister will read directories and write these to a dBASEIII format file. When present, the Dir2DBF Directory Lister will also read the hidden 4DOS (or NDOS) `DESCRIPT.ION` file in that directory and add the information to the appropriate filerecords. The records are ended by a Cr-Lf character pair to improve viewability with editors such as Notepad. This causes the records to be on separate lines. This will aid also automatic editing by using macros.

The Dir2DBF Directory Lister has two operating modes:

- Interactive Mode and
- Command Line Mode

The Directories are written to a temporary file in the temporary directory, set by the `TEMP` environment variable. If this is absent in the environment, `C:\` will be used as default. After the listing operation Dir2DBF asks for a filename and path to write the permanent file to (using a common dialog box).

The Default file-extension is `.DBF` and when an other extension is forced, a warning will appear. It is still possible to write the file with an other extension, but then the file is not readable anymore by standard viewers and database-programs without manually renaming the file.

- File Header

The first line of the file will be a dBASEIII type header.

- Database Table Structure

Each Subsequent line is a record

File Header

The first line of the file will be a dBASEIII type header.
The structure of this is:

Table Header

Type of Data File	1 Byte
Last Update	3 Bytes
Number of Records	4 Bytes
Position of First Data Record	2 Bytes
Length of one Record	2 Bytes
Reserved	20 Bytes
	Total 32 Bytes

n Field Subrecord Headers

Field Name (maximum of 10 characters; padded with null characters)	10 Bytes
Filler (null)	1 Byte
Data Type	1 Byte
Displacement of Field in Record	4 Bytes
Length of Field in Bytes	1 Byte
Number of Decimal Places	1 Byte
Reserved	14 Bytes
	Total 32 Bytes

Database Table Structure

Each Subsequent line is a record.
Each Line consists of:

Deleted Flag (Space for Not deleted, * for Deleted)	1 Byte
File Name	12 Bytes
File Size	10 Bytes
File Date (In the format YYYYMMDD)	8 Bytes
File Time (In the format HH:MM)	5 Bytes
File Description	80 Bytes
File Path	40 Bytes
Line Terminator (to enhance viewability)	2 Bytes
	Total 158 Bytes

Interactive Mode

When started without Command Line, Dir2DBF will enter the Interactive Mode. This will be visible by a Common Dialog Box-type Window (see figure)

First choose the appropriate drive.

Then choose the directory where the search must start.

Click in the Subdirectories in Search Include box until checked for a search that extends into the subdirectories.

Click until unchecked for searching only the chosen directory.

Enter in the File Specification box the file specifications to search for.

Multiple specifications are possible, separated by a semicolon and a space:

```
*.skd; floor*.bak
```

A Sample of the files to list in the chosen directory will be shown in the Directory Sample listbox. Subdirectories will not be shown.

Click Cancel to stop without search or Search to start search.

Searching

While Searching (either in Interactive or Command-Line Mode), an indicator box will appear (see figure)

The box will show the directories searched and the total of files with the specification entered that is found.

Click Abort to abort the search prematurely.

Writing

When finished the indicator box will disappear and the dialog box will get the focus.

Observe that while searching the Cancel button will be disabled and the caption changes to Exit. The Write button, still disabled will be enabled when the search is finished or aborted.

Now by clicking the Write button a Common Dialog box will be opened, providing the opportunity to enter a Filename to which the temporary file can be copied to. After the write the focus returns to the Dir2DBF box. An other search is possible. The caption of the Exit button changes back to Cancel.

Clicking the Exit button will open the Common Dialog box without returning to the Dir2DBF box. After write or cancel the program ends.

Command Line Mode

The Command Line Syntax is:

```
[D:\PATH\]DIR2DBF[.EXE] [D:\PATH\] [FILESPEC.EXT] [FILESPEC.EXT] ...  
[ /S ] [ /LD:\PATH\LISTFILE.EXT ]
```

Multiple filespecs have to be separated from each other and from the other command line arguments by spaces. Only the last entered D:\PATH\ will be recognized as a valid path for the search.

Not entering a searchpath will start the search in the current directory on the current drive.

/S Indicates that a search has to be performed including the sub-directories.

/LD:\PATH\LISTFILE.EXT Provides the path and filename for the listfile.

When a listfile is provided, the Common Dialog box will not appear, as the database file is directly written to the specified listfile. Use this with caution, as the target file is not alterable now. Use only when providing filespecs.

ONLY when at least one FILESPEC.EXT is entered the dialog box will not appear. When no filespec is entered the program will operate in interactive mode, but with some options preset.