Dbank

Time Series Data Management System for Microsoft Windows

Do you have a lot of time-series data on your hard disk but have little or no idea which files have what data? Do you find it difficult to extract a subset of those data for use with various programs? Would you like to organize the data on your hard disk so that they are easy to locate?

Dbank is a network-ready, tree-structured filing system for time-series and cross-sectional data that runs under Microsoft Windows. **Dbank** is modeled after the Microsoft Windows' File Manager; however, its fundamental object is data rather than a file. In addition to providing numerous commands for managing, manipulating, viewing and plotting time-series and cross-sectional data in a user-friendly environment, **Dbank** exports data to many statistical packages and spreadsheet programs.

Dbank may be useful to people who need the same data in different formats because they routinely use more than one statistical/spreadsheet package to analyze their data; and it is likely to be useful in corporations/institutions with large databases that need to be shared with many users at different locations. It has been found to be especially useful in university environments where there are typically many users of the same dataset, but where users require different ASCII formats of the data. **Dbank** provides a user-friendly solution to this common problem, and can be run directly from a network server without any user installation.

Key features of **Dbank** are:

- **TREE-STRUCTURED FILING SYSTEM**

Dbank data banks are typically organized into groups of series. A "series" is simply a collection of data. A "group" within **Dbank** is simply a collection of series and other groups. **Dbank** data banks possess a hierarchical tree-structure similar to the MS-DOS file system.

- **FLEXIBLE DATA MANAGEMENT**

Dbank has many commands for managing your data. For example, you can easily ADD series to the data bank, EDIT the data stored in a series, MOVE a series from one group to another, and COPY a series to another series, group or data bank. **Dbank** has a command to DELETE a series, one to VIEW the data stored in a series in a spreadsheet format, and commands to RENAME and PRINT series in the data bank. You can also create new series from existing series using an extensive MAKE facility with over 65 built-in functions.

- **FLEXIBLE INPUT FORMATS**

Dbank can read many types of ASCII data files. In particular, **Dbank** can deal with the "CITIBASE TAPE" file format, and the AREMOS ".TSD" file format. If you have access to Microsoft's EXCEL, **Dbank** can read EXCEL and LOTUS spreadsheet files. **Dbank** can also read GAUSS ".DHT" and ".FMT" binary files directly.

- **MULTIPLE FREQUENCIES**

Dbank manages data with ANNUAL, HALF-YEARLY, QUARTERLY, MONTHLY, WEEKLY and DAILY periodicity. The DAILY frequency allows you to specify a 5, 6 or 7-day week. **Dbank** also has a NULL frequency meant for cross-sectional or undated data. The program can handle missing values in the manipulation of series with different periodicities and start/end dates.

- **FLEXIBLE EXPORT FACILITY**

Dbank allows you to easily export your data to any one of the following statistical/spreadsheet packages: AREMOS, TSP, Micro TSP, GAUSS, LIMDEP, LOTUS, QUATTRO, EXCEL, SAS, SST, MINITAB, RATS, BMDP, SPSS. **Dbank** can also convert your data to a lower frequency during the export process.

- **"SQL" SUPPORT**

Dbank allows you to issue Structured Query Language (SQL) commands on the series in a data bank. You can construct queries on the series titles ([Title]), the series names ([Name]), the series "memo" ([Description]), the frequency of the series ([Frequency]), and the "long-name" of the series ([Long Name]). Any of these items can be combined into a single SQL query using the File Query SQL statement command. For example, the SQL statement

```
[Title] like "*BALANCE*" and [Frequency] = "Q"
```

finds all the quarterly series in the selected data banks with the string "BALANCE" in their titles.

- **DATA BANK MANAGEMENT**

Dbank allows you to delete, copy, move, rename, and squeeze data banks. It also allows you to make read-only data banks, and "network-only" files that can be read only if they reside on a network drive.

Dbank is currently distributed as shareware in a compressed file called DBANKWIN.EXE that can be downloaded via anonymous ftp from the Internet site **ftp.cica.indiana.edu** in the directory /pub/pc/win3/util. Suggestions for improvement are always welcome and should be sent to **fbaso@nus.sg** or **FAX: +65 272 7060**.

Information current as of 20-Jul-94, and may differ from version found on ftp.cica.indiana.edu.

All brand and product names are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.