

WindBase 2.0

NickleWare
Bradley Nicholes

INTRODUCTION

WindBase is an application that was designed to help simplify data collection, storage and retrieval. With the help of WindBase, you can design custom data entry forms and at the same time create the database to match. WindBase will also allow you to index and reindex your data by a single field or multiple fields. This enables you to organize and retrieve your data much more easily and faster as well. WindBase allows you to create, store and view multiple database files all at the same time. Then when you are ready to print your data, WindBase will print it in the same custom layout or let you reorganize the data to best fit your needs.

REGISTRATION

WindBase is not public domain, nor is it free software. You are granted a limited license to use this product on a trial basis. You are also granted a license to copy WindBase, along with the documentation, for the trial use by other users. If you wish to continue using the product, you must send \$25 to:

NickleWare
P.O. Box 393
Orem, UT. 84059 USA

If you would like an original disk or an update to the latest release of the software, please add \$5 for shipping and handling.

We encourage you to copy WindBase and share it with anyone who might be interested in an easier way to gather, store and retrieve information.

GETTING STARTED

REQUIREMENTS -

Microsoft Windows 3.1 or higher
IBM compatible PC 286, 386 or 486

Before proceeding, make sure that you have Microsoft Windows correctly installed. Next create a directory called WINDBASE and copy the WindBase software (WINDBASE.EXE) into this directory. WindBase is ready to be started. Simply start WindBase from the RUN... menu selection of the Windows Program Manager or add it to a Program Manager group by following the directions for creating a group item in the Windows 3.1 User's Guide.

WHAT IS A DATABASE

A database is a collection of similar data records stored in a common file or collection of files. A database management system such as WindBase provides a means by which a user can easily store and retrieve this data.

CREATING A NEW DATABASE

To create a WindBase database first select DATABASE DEFINITION and NEW from the FILE pulldown menu. WindBase will create a blank database definition window and ungray the following menu selections:

FILE Menu:

DATABASE DEFINITION

SAVE... - Save a database definition and data files.

DEFINE Menu:

TEXT - This option creates a static text field in the current database definition window.

EDIT - This option creates an entry/edit field in the current database definition window.

CHECKBOX - This option creates a checkbox in the current database definition window.

BITMAP - This option creates a bitmap field in the current database definition window.

STYLES - This option displays a popup window that allows the user to modify the attributes of the currently selected TEXT, EDIT, CHECKBOX or BITMAP field.

DELETE - This option deletes the currently selected TEXT, EDIT, CHECKBOX or BITMAP field.

TITLE - This option modifies the database title that appears in the database window.

FONT - This option changes the text font for the current database definition window.

Layout the database by selecting the desired fields from the DEFINE pulldown menu as described in the CREATING A DATABASE FIELD section. Each of the newly created fields can be resized and placed in the database definition window where desired.

After all of the database fields have been created and defined, the database layout can be saved and the database files created. To do this, simply select DATABASE DEFINITION and SAVE... from the FILE pulldown menu. A SAVE popup window will appear prompting the user to enter a path and file name where the database files and associated layout files will be stored. The user only needs to enter the primary part of the file name (file name without the extension). WindBase will add the extension of .WB for the database layout file, .DB for the database file and .IDX for the index file. Once the file name has been entered and the user has selected the OK pushbutton, the database definition and field layout files will be created. If the database files already exist in the specified path, Windbase will notify the user that the database already exists and the path or file name must to be changed. Once a database definition has been saved and the

database created, WindBase will only allow the database fields to be resized or repositioned. No new database fields can be added to this definition. If there is a need to add or delete a database field, this can be done as described in the CREATING A NEW DATABASE FROM AN EXISTING section and the DATA IMPORT AND EXPORT section.

CREATING A DATABASE FIELD

By selecting the TEXT, EDIT, CHECKBOX or BITMAP options from the DEFINE pulldown menu, the corresponding field will be created in the currently selected database definition window. The new field will be created in the upper left hand corner of the database definition window. A style popup window will be displayed prompting the user to enter a name to identify the newly created field and modify any of the field attributes if desired. After the database field has been created, it can be moved and resized as explained in the MOVE AND RESIZING A DATABASE FIELD section.

SETTING ATTRIBUTES OF A DATABASE FIELD

Each TEXT, EDIT, CHECKBOX and BITMAP field defaults to a specific set of attributes. These attributes may be modified through the STYLES option in the DEFINE pulldown menu. When the STYLES option is selected a popup window is presented that corresponds to the selected database field. The EDIT, CHECKBOX and BITMAP fields require a field name that is later used in the creation of the database. All other attributes in the styles popup windows are optional.

MOVING AND RESIZING A DATABASE FIELD

Once a database field has been created, it can be moved or resized to the desired position and size by dragging and dropping with the mouse pointer or grabbing the field border and stretching it.

To move the field, simply place the mouse pointer over the top of it and click the mouse button once. A dotted line will appear around the field to indicate that it is now the currently selected field. The mouse pointer will also change to a four direction pointer to indicate that the field may be moved. With the four direction pointer over the top of the selected field, press and hold the left mouse button down and while hold down the button, move the mouse pointer to the desired position. A database field may also be moved by using the arrow keys on the keyboard. To do this first select the database field with the mouse as described above. Then use the arrow keys to move the database field in the desired direction.

To resize a database field, select the field as described above, then move the mouse pointer over the border of the selected field. As this is done, the mouse pointer will change from a four direction pointer to a two direction horizontal, vertical or diagonal pointer depending on the direction in which the field may be resized. Then simply hold the left mouse button down and move the mouse in the direction indicated by the two direction pointer until the field is resized to the desired size.

DELETING A DATABASE FIELD

Once a TEXT, EDIT, CHECKBOX or BITMAP field has been created, it may be deleted. To delete a field, simply select it by placing the mouse pointer over it and pressing the left mouse button. Once the field has been selected, a dotted line border will appear around it. Then select DELETE from the DEFINE pulldown menu. A confirmation popup window will appear asking that the user to confirm the operation. Selecting the YES pushbutton, will delete the field.

CHANGING THE DATABASE TITLE

To change the title that appears in the database window title bar, select the TITLE option from the DEFINE pulldown menu. After making this selection a popup window will be displayed allowing the user to enter a database title. After entering the database title, select the OK pushbutton and the database window title will change.

CHANGING THE DATABASE FONT

To change the font for the database window text, select the FONT... option from the DEFINE pulldown menu. After making this selection a popup window will be displayed allowing the user to select a new font. After selecting the new font, select the OK pushbutton and the new font will appear in the database window.

OPENING A DATABASE

To open an existing database the user must select OPEN DATABASE... from the FILE pulldown menu. An open file popup window will be displayed. This popup window allows the user to change directories and select database files. There are four types of files that WindBase creates. The primary name of each of the four files of a database is the name specified by the user when the database was originally created. The extensions for each of these files are as follows:

- .WB - WindBase database layout file.
- .DB - Database file.
- .IDX - Database index file.
- .WBN - Database bitmap file.
- .PRN - WindBase page layout file.

When opening a database, any one of these files can be selected. Once the database has been selected, a database window will appear with the current database layout.

OPENING A DATABASE DEFINITION

An existing database definition can be opened by selection DATABASE DEFINITION and OPEN... from the FILE pulldown menu. A database definition that has been opened for modification can not have new database fields created. The only modifications that are allowed are resizing and repositioning of existing database fields. Once all of the modifications have been completed, select DATABASE DEFINITION and SAVE... from the FILE pulldown menu. If there is a need to add or delete a database field from an existing definition, this can be done as described in the CREATING A NEW DATABASE FROM AN EXISTING section and the DATA IMPORT AND EXPORT section.

CREATING A NEW DATABASE FROM AN EXISTING

A new database definition can be created from an existing definition by selection DATABASE DEFINITION and OPEN AS... from the FILE pulldown menu. The user will then be prompted to select an existing database definition to use as the template for the new database definition. Once a database definition template has been selection, a database definition window will appear containing all of the same fields that existed in the selected database definition template. The user can then add, modify or delete database fields as described in the Creating A Database Field Setting Attributes Of A Database Field and Deleting A Database Field sections

DELETING A DATABASE

To delete a database the user must open the database as described in the OPENING A DATABASE section. Once the database has been opened and selected, pull down the FILE menu and select DELETE DATABASE. A confirmation popup window will appear allowing the user to confirm the action. If the OK pushbutton is selected, the database along with its associated files will be deleted.

DELETING DATABASE RECORDS ONLY

To delete all of the database records without deleting the database definition, simply pulldown the FILE menu and select DELETE ALL RECORDS. A confirmation message box will appear prompting the user to confirm the delete all records action. If the user selects the YES pushbutton, WindBase will then delete all of the records from the currently selected database without deleting the definition.

ENTERING AND EDITING DATA

To enter and edit a record within a database the user must first open the database as described in the OPENING A DATABASE section. Data can be entered into any of the EDIT fields, CHECKBOXes or BITMAP fields. Once the desired data has been entered, select ADD from the RECORD pulldown menu. This will add the record to the database.

Modifying a record can be done in the same manner. After the data has been completely modified, select MODIFY from the RECORD pulldown menu.

Bitmap data can be pasted in from the clipboard or read in from a file by using the normal clipboard paste option under the EDIT pulldown menu or selecting the PASTE FROM A FILE option. Also by double clicking on a bitmap field, the user will be presented with a popup menu which will allow a bitmap to be stretched to fit within the bounds of the field or in normal view. The popup menu also provides the PASTE FROM A FILE functionality for reading in the bitmap data from a .BMP file.

MOVING AROUND A DATABASE

Searching and browsing through the records of a database can be done by selecting SEARCH, PREVIOUS and NEXT from the RECORD pulldown menu. To search for a specific record, simply enter in the data or part of the data into the field by which the database has been indexed. Then select SEARCH from the RECORD pulldown menu. WindBase will search the database for the first record that exactly matches or is the closest match to the data entered. By selecting the NEXT or PREVIOUS options from the RECORD pulldown menu, the user will be able to step through each record one by one forward or backward.

DELETING A RECORD FROM THE DATABASE

To delete a record from the database, simply select the record in the same manner as described in the MOVING AROUND A DATABASE section. Once the desired record has been selected pull down the RECORD menu and click on the DELETE option. A confirmation popup window will appear allowing the user to confirm or reject the action. If the user clicks on the YES pushbutton, the record will be deleted from the databases.

DEFINING AN INDEX

One of the selections under the FILE pulldown menu is the option to define or set a new default INDEX for a database. After selecting this option, a popup window will appear that contains two list boxes. The first list box on the left contains a list of the currently defined indexes for the selected database. By highlighting one of the index names in the list box, the name will appear in the entry field at the top right-hand side of the popup window. The second list box will display a list of the fields currently defined in the selected database with the selected index definition fields highlighted.

A new index can be created by first entering in a new index name into the INDEX NAME entry field above the INDEX DEFINITION list box. Then by dragging and placing the database field names within the INDEX DEFINITION list box into the desired order and highlighting them by click on them with the mouse, the user is able to define a new index definition. After the new index has been defined, click on the DEFINE pushbutton beneath the INDEX DEFINITION list box and the index will be created and added to the current database index list. Once an index has been defined, it can not be

modified or deleted. The only way to remove index definitions is by selecting the REINDEX option from the FILE/INDEX cascade menu. This option will remove all of the defined indexes and recreate the PHYSICAL and PRIMARY indexes.

REINDEXING A DATABASE

To reindex a database, first open the database as described in the OPENING A DATABASE section. Once the database has been opened and the database window selected, pulldown the FILE menu and select REINDEX from the INDEX cascade menu. This will remove all of the currently defined indexes for the selected database and restore the base PHYSICAL and PRIMARY indexes.

LAYING OUT A PRINTER PAGE

WindBase allows the user to print a database record in a different format than what was originally defined. Creating a printer definition is similar to creating a database definition. Select PAGE SETUP from the FILE pulldown menu. A database window will appear with the current database definition. When the page layout window is created, the working area is adjusted to reflect the current size of a physical printer page according to the printer definition. The working area can be scrolled within the printer page definition window by using the scroll bars along the sides of the window. If the printer page definition has not already been created, it will default to the current database definition. The database fields can be moved and resized as described in the MOVING AND RESIZING A DATABASE FIELD section. While in the printer page definition mode the user will not be able to create new EDIT, CHECKBOX or BITMAP fields, but the user may create new TEXT fields. The user is also allowed to change the text of a CHECKBOX or any previously existing TEXT field. Once the printer page has been laid out as desired, select DATABASE DEFINITION and SAVE... from the FILE pulldown menu. The printer page definition will be saved and used whenever a record is printed from the corresponding database.

PRINTING A RECORD

To print a record, first select the desired record as described in the MOVING AROUND THE DATABASE section. After the desired record has been selected, pulldown the FILE menu and select PRINT. The current record will be printed using the defined printer page definition. (The printer page definition must have been defined as described in the LAYING OUT A PRINTER PAGE section.).

VIEWING / MANIPULATING MULTIPLE DATABASES

Because WindBase was implemented as a multiple document interface application, it allows the user to open, maintain and view more than one database at a time. As each database file is opened, WindBase creates a new

database window and lays out the database on the working area. Switching from one database to another is as simple as placing the mouse cursor over the desired window and clicking the left mouse button. This will select that database and window as the current database. All of the WindBase menu options will then apply to that database. Each of the database windows can also be minimized to avoid cluttering up the desktop with too many windows. Then, as desired, each database window can be restored or minimized as the user moves from one database file to another.

DATA IMPORT AND EXPORT

WindBase will allow the user to import or export data from or to a text file. To import data from a text file, first open the database as described in the OPENING A DATABASE section. Once a database has been opened, select IMPORT from the FILE pulldown menu. The user will be prompted to select the text file containing the data to be imported. Once the import file has been selected, an import window will appear allowing the user to set the type of delimiter that WindBase should look for to delimit each field of a database record. After selecting a delimiter, the user should select the RESET FILE pushbutton. At this point WindBase will read in and display the first record from the import text file. The data import window also contains three options for importing the data. These three options are importing a SINGLE record at a time, importing ALL records at one time or importing a specified number of records. Once one of these options has been selected, the user can click on the IMPORT pushbutton to begin importing and adding the data to the database.

There are also two other pushbuttons which allow the user to move through import data or cancel the import operation. These two pushbuttons are SKIP and CANCEL. By selecting the SKIP pushbutton, the current import record will be skipped and the next record will be read in and displayed.

Data export is similar to data import. By selecting the EXPORT menu option, the user will be prompted to specify an export file name after which an export window will appear that looks similar to the import window with the exception of the ADD RECORD TERMINATOR checkbox. This checkbox instructs WindBase to add a carriage return and line feed to the end of each record regardless of the selected field delimiter. This allows the resulting output to be written in a format that is more suitable for reporting. As described above the user should specify the field delimiter and export option WindBase should use. Then by clicking on the EXPORT pushbutton, WindBase will export the data into a text file.

MENU OPTIONS

FILE MENU

OPEN DATABASE - Open an existing database for uses or modification.

DATABASE DEFINITION

NEW - Create an empty database layout window.

OPEN... - Open an existing database for user or modification.

OPEN AS... - Open an existing database definition as a template for creating a new database.

SAVE... - Save the currently selected database or printer page definition.

DELETE DATABASE - Delete the currently selected database and the

associated files.

DELETE ALL RECORDS - Delete all records in the currently selected database.

INDEX

DEFINE/SET DEFAULT - Define and set the default indexes for the currently selected database.

REINDEX - Reindex the currently selected database.

IMPORT - Import data from a text file.

EXPORT - Export data to a text file.

PAGE SETUP - Create or modify the printer page layout for the currently selected database.

PRINT - Print the active record from the currently selected database.

PRINTER SETUP - Change the printer attributes

EXIT - Close all open databases and exit WindBase.

EDIT MENU

UNDO - Undo the last entry field action.

CUT - Cut the currently selected entry field text to the clipboard.

COPY - Copy the currently selected entry field text to the clipboard.

PASTE - Paste the clipboard contents to the currently selected entry field.

PASTE FROM FILE - Paste a bitmap from a file.

CLEAR - Clear the currently selected entry field text.

SELECT ALL - Select all of the text in the currently selected entry field.

RECORD MENU

ADD - Add a record to the currently selected database.

MODIFY - Modify a record in the currently selected database.

DELETE - Delete a record from the currently selected database.

CLEAR - Clear all fields in the currently selected database window.

SEARCH - Search for a record in the currently selected database based on the selected index.

NEXT - Display the next record in the currently selected database based on the selected index.

PREVIOUS - Display the previous record in the currently selected database based on the selected index.

FIRST - Display the first record in the currently selected database based on the selected index.

LAST - Display the last record in the currently selected database based on the selected index.

DEFINE MENU

TEXT - Create a Text field in the currently selected database window.

EDIT - Create an edit field in the currently selected database window.

CHECKBOX - Create a checkbox field in the currently selected database window.

BITMAP - Create a bitmap field in the currently selected database window.

STYLES - Modify the attributes of the selected field in the currently selected database window.

DELETE - Delete the selected field in the currently selected database window.

TITLE - Modify the title of the currently selected database window.

FONT - Select a new font for the currently selected database window.

WINDOW MENU

- TILE - Tile all open database windows within the WindBase main window.
- CASCADE - Cascade all open database windows within the WindBase main window.
- ARRANGE ICONS - Arrange all database window icons within the WindBase main window.
- CLOSE ALL - Close all open database windows.

HELP MENU

- INDEX - Display the WindBase help file.
- ABOUT - Display the WindBase About Box.

SPECIAL FEATURES

DRAG AND DROP - Whenever an item such as a database field is being repositioned within a database definition window, the item may be dragged and dropped. This means that an item can be selected with the mouse pointer, and while holding the mouse button down, move the pointer to a new position. When the mouse button is released the selected item will be placed at the mouse pointer position.

CLIPBOARD - The clipboard is a convenient way of transferring data between WindBase and other Windows applications or between different WindBase databases or records. To use the clipboard functions simply highlight any text that is displayed in an entry field, pull down the EDIT menu and choose COPY or CUT. The COPY function will place a copy of the highlighted text in the Windows clipboard. The CUT function also places the highlighted text in the clipboard but also removes it from the entry field. To retrieve text from the clipboard, place the cursor at the position inside an entry field where the clipboard text should be inserted or appended. Then pull down the EDIT menu and choose PASTE. The clipboard text will be placed in the entry field at the cursor position.

ENHANCEMENTS

The following is a list of the new features and enhancements that have been included in version 2.0 of WindBase:

- o Data Import and Export functionality.
- o Database Text and Printing Font Selection Per Database Definition.
- o Ability to Store and Retrieve Bitmap Graphical Data.
- o Addition of Windows 3.1 File Open, Save As... and Font dialogs

EXITING

When you have finished using WindBase, you should exit via the EXIT selection from the main window's FILE menu. If you forget and turn your computer off before exiting, WindBase can not guarantee that your database files have been saved completely. It is very important that you always exit WindBase via this selection.

NickleWare
Copyright (C) 1990-93 Bradley Nicholes
CompuServe: 72730,1002

This documentation must accompany the WindBase software.

NickleWare or Bradley Nicholes shall not be liable for any damages, whether direct, indirect, special or consequential arising from the use or failure of this program to operate in the manner desired by the user.