Fields

Procedures

Setup

Format

WIN.INI

By default, *Convert* assumes that the two required data files (CATS.DAT and UNITS.DAT) are in the Windows subdirectory. These files may be placed in any other subdirectory by adding the following section to your WIN.INI file:

```
[Convert]
CatData=d:\dir\cats.dat
UnitData=d:\dir\units.dat
```

Case is unimportant, but there must be no spaces in the specification lines. ***d:*** is the drive letter; ***dir*** is the path specification.

Catalog data file

The catalog data file which comes with *Convert* should be suitable for most purposes. You can easily add to or modify the supplied CATS.DAT data file with any straight-ASCII editor, however, such as the Windows Notepad. The format is simply:

cat1
cat2
cat3

Units data file

The units data file which comes with *Convert* should be suitable for most purposes. You can easily add to or modify the supplied UNITS.DAT data file with any straight-ASCII editor, however, such as the Windows Notepad. The format is:

cat1,unit1,conversion
cat1,unit2,conversion
cat2,unit1,conversion
cat2,unit2,conversion
cat2,unit3,conversion

cat1, cat2, etc. correspond to categories contained in the categories data file. Examples of categories are force and mass. The units within a category are not automatically sorted for the program display, so it is up to you to enter them in a logical order (typically alphabetical).

unit1, unit2, etc. are units which correspond to the given category. Examples of units for the catgeory LENGTH are Feet, Meters, and Fathoms. The units within a category are not automatically sorted for the program display, so it is up to you to enter them in a logical order (typically alphabetical). Obviously, all units for a given category should be dimensionally equivalent. In addition, units must be convertible among each other using only multiplication. Thus, a conversion such as Farenheit to Centigrade is not supported.

Conversion factors are best explained by an example. If the base unit for length is meters, the conversion factor for centimeters is 100. The choice of a base unit for a given class is arbitrary -- it is the unit with a conversion factor of 1. It probably makes most sense, however, to use something like a standard SI unit.

About the Program

Convert is a simple Windows program which performs a wide range of standard unit conversions. A comprehensive conversion database is supplied with the program, but customization for specific applications is easy as well.

Convert was written using Turbo Pascal for Windows. It is a 'Freeware' program which means that it is copyrighted and subject to the distribution restrictions listed in the documentation. No fee is required for its use (although a small donation would not be refused),

About the Author

Convert was written by Gordon Haff, a member of the Association of Shareware Professionals.

The author has also written **Directory Freedom (DF)** (Shareware: $20 registration), **Zip X-Ray (ZR)**, **Newdate (ND)**, and '**the last word**' (Shareware: $15 registration). All of these programs should be available on major BBS's and from many disk distributors. A complete collection of the author's programs in ZIPped archives can be obtained by sending a $10 shipping & handling fee to the below address.

Comments and suggestions may be sent to:

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Copy

The Copy command transfers the contents of the Answer field to the Windows clipboard.

The primary purpose of this function is to allow you to transfer the result of a *Convert* calculation to other Windows applications -- such as the Calculator shipped with Windows.

Cut

The Cut command transfers the contents of the Answer field to the Windows clipboard and then clears the field.

The primary purpose of this function is to allow you to transfer the result of a *Convert* calculation to other Windows applications -- such as the Calculator shipped with Windows.

Paste

The Paste command transfers the contents of the Windows clipboard to the Number From field.

The primary purpose of this function is to allow you to transfer a result of a result generated by another Windows applications -- such as the Calculator shipped with Windows -- to *Convert*.

Clear

The Clear command blanks the Number From field.

Decimal

Choosing the DECIMAL menu item opens a dialog box which prompts you for the number of fixed digits to the right of the decimal point in the answer. A number from 0 to 9 may be entered.

Category

The Category ComboBox allows you to select a category such as mass or force.

Once a category has been chosen, *Convert* will fill both Unit boxes with the appropriate set of dimensionally equivalent units from the units database.

A Category must be chosen before any other action (e.g. Selecting Units) can be taken.

Units From

The Units From ComboBox allows you to select a set of dimensionally equivalent units from the units database which corresponds to the selected category.

For example, if a category such as "mass" is selected, the Units From box will be filled with units such as kilograms.

The selected unit in this box corresponds to the quantity in the Number From field.

A unit must be selected from this box before any conversions can be processed.

Units To

The contents of the Units To ComboBox are identical to the contents of the Units From

The selected unit in this box corresponds to the quantity in the Answer field.

See Units From for more detailed information.

Number From

The quantity in this Edit Box corresponds to the selected unit in the Units From box.

Only numerical digits are valid entries. Exponential notation is not supported at this time.

Answer

The quantity in this Edit Box corresponds to the selected unit in the Units To box.

The number of fixed digits to the right of the decimal point may be set by using the DECIMAL menu item. If the number is too large for the answer box (approximately 10^18), an Overflow message will be displayed. Exponential notation is not supported at this time.

Selecting Category

A category is selected by:

1) Clicking on the down arrow of the ComboBox
2) Clicking on the desired item

The standard Windows keyboard shortcuts may also be used.

Selecting Units

A unit is selected by:

1) Clicking on the down arrow of the ComboBox
2) Clicking on the desired item

The standard Windows keyboard shortcuts may also be used.

Swapping

The Swap button reverses the selections in the Units From and Units To boxes and recalculates the answer based on this reversal.

Computing Answer

The result of the calculation is obtained by clicking on the Go button or by pressing the <Enter> key.