relations

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Chapter 1

relations

1.1 A CD record example that uses relations between files

This example shows how db can use ARexx to implement simple relations
between files, in this case a file with information on CDs and
another file with songs. If you understand this example then there is
nothing stopping you from making your very own customer-invoice system.

Instructions:
By splitting the data into two files like this we gain some advantages:
* Each CD can have any number of songs.
* No information is duplicated.

The two files are "connected" via a common field; the CD number (CD #).
This field represents the relation between the files.

To play with this example read this:
You can start any of the files by doubleclicking them. You don't have to
start both. db will load the other automatically when needed.

If you view the data for a specific CD and want to see the songs on that CD,
then just doubleclick on the CD # field and voilá, the Songs file will
pop up showing the first song that exist in that CD. Use Enter and
Shift-Enter to view the other songs.

To go in the other direction, i.e. to view the CD that corresponds to a song,
just doubleclick on the CD # field in the Song file. The CD database will be
loaded if it isn't loaded already.

To add CD's read this:
(in the CD database)
1. Select "New" from db's menu and select the CD # field.
2. Enter a unique CD number. If you don't do that you will be warned.
   Or just press Enter or Tab to have db select a unique number for you.
3. Enter information in the other fields.

To add songs read this:
(in the Songs database)
1. Select "New" from db's menu and select the CD # field.
2. Enter the number that corresponds to the desired CD.

   db will look for the corresponding CD and warn you if it isn't there.
3. Enter information in the other fields.

To make your own databases with relations, read this:
This is quite simple as I use a generic ARexx script to
do look-ups in a database based upon the value in another.
Examine the files in this drawer and you'll figure out how it works.

Enjoy!