Thank you for trying CDBASEWIN! I'm very proud of this program and I feel it has perhaps the best combination of features and simplicity. I've released this program as shareware, and I'm providing all users a 30-day period to evaluate this program and its features. If you continue to use CDBASEWIN! after that period, then you are required to mail a $20.00 registration fee (Cash or Money Order preferred). Registered users will be given information on any future upgrades, and be allowed to purchase future upgrades for a $5.00 fee via mail. At the conclusion of this documentation, you will be provided with an address for sending the registration fee.

Perhaps the best way to describe CDBASEWIN! is that it is self-teaching, written by a music enthusiast for others who enjoy music. You can literally start the program, and immediately enter data--it's just that easy! In each of the three main screens, there is a help menu which may be accessed at any time, which describes the features of the program. As such, this documentation will only be provided to get you started!

CDBASEWIN! requires both Windows 3.0 or greater and VBRUN200.DLL in order to run. This file may be found on most of the major bulletin board services (usually as VBRUN200.ZIP), as well as countless local ones. You may already have it if you have downloaded other programs which have required it--only one copy is needed on your hard drive! I also highly recommend the installation of CDBASEWIN! in your Windows directory. Unlike many programs, it is highly self contained and makes no modifications of any files other than the one it uses (or the one you specify) for storing data.

Normally when you run CDBASEWIN! it will create an empty file called cd.dta in the program's home directory. You may specify another file by typing the file path and name after the program name (i.e. cdbwin C:\music\cd.dta). If you choose to add the program as an item in a Windows program group, you can use the same method in the command line box. Please note that your file name must end with the .dta extension, otherwise an error message will be displayed and the program will stop. I've included a file called test.dta which will allow you to practice using the features in the program. You may use the method I've just described to access that file.

I've tried to anticipate the wishes and habits of everyone when writing this program. One of the key features of the program is its ability to search for criteria you specify. Here's where habit is important. To make it easier for you to find data, I strongly recommend that you use this format when entering the artist name: last name, first name (i.e.: Houston, Whitney). When searching for an artist, just typing the first two or three letters of a last name will almost always take you right to that artist. Another thing I've tried to anticipate are things you could do to "ruin my program's day." Sooner or later, people will find a way to do it, or nature will intervene. Losing the power or exiting Windows while the program is running is one method! For the most part, data within your music file won't be corrupted unless another program you are running harms it. To this end I've written CDBASEWIN! as a "team player," yielding its time whenever possible to other programs running in your environment. Be forewarned when the sort routine runs other programs running in the environment will slow to a crawl! In other words, don't select this option while running other programs in Windows. I also allow only one copy of CDBASEWIN! loaded at any given time, in order to protect data. Loading another without exiting the first will result in a "Permission Denied" Error.

Since CDBASEWIN! uses the Print Manager for printing, it can also use any device that is a substitute (like a fax program). So you could fax a list of your albums to a friend if that was your wish--the "Print Master" button will handle such an event. If your print manager spools to a RAMDISK, make sure the RAMDISK is large enough to handle the resulting spool file (allow at least 1 meg for every 250 records), otherwise, the system will lock! It has been one year since I've first released my MS-DOS version of CDBASEWIN! I have written a program FOR REGISTERED USERS ONLY which will convert data from the MS-DOS version   You may send for it by writing me at the address given below. If you are registered as a user, I will send you a copy of the conversion program.

You may freely distribute CDBASEWIN! along with this documentation, provided it is not sold for profit. Tampering with the program will result in vigorous prosecution, as well as unpredictable results when running the program!

I try to think of what users have asked for in regards to features of the program. Two questions I'm often asked are: "Why don't you allow for specification of music type," and "Why can't I attach lyrics for a song." As for music type, I've found that most music listeners have their own way of classifying what they listen to. I've probably heard in my lifetime hundreds of different classifications for music. Some users of my DOS program store their tastes in different files, yet most prefer the file structure I've set up. As for lyrics--I felt that the space required to store them would make the program too slow in its management of your data. Every record you add will take a little less than 1K on your hard drive. Adding a lyric feature could easily make that 10K or more.

Regarding file size, you will notice if you delete albums that your files never seem to grow smaller. Instead, the program will seek out unused space in your file whenever you add a record. I've tested CDBWIN! with up to 16,000 records, and all features run smoothly, with the exception of the alphabetical sort. It works, yet is so slow you could go to the store and buy another CD! Use the sort with under 1,000 records. I feel that this would be the maximum most home users would add to their file. 16,000 records (which represents the limit I've set CDBASE at) might only be reached in a commercial store.

So go and run the program and let it teach you new ways of enjoying your music. I love to hear from my users, and I try to respond to everyone who has registered. Please remit the registration fee to: John Cillis
                            1900 Unwin Dr.
                            Napa, CA 94558

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