What Mailing List?

Mailing List Management & Printing Software
for MS-DOS computers

Shareware Edition User's Guide

Written by Angel Babudro
P.O. Box 132
Paonia, CO 81428

NOTE: The file **WML.TXT** is ASCII TEXT for fixed-pitch
printing, whereas **WML.WP** is a WordPerfect 5.1
document, suitable for loading into a word processor
for proportional-spaced printing.

What Mailing List?

CONTENTS

--

What Mailing List?

--

What Mailing List?

--

What Mailing List?

--

What Mailing List?

DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY

WML IS PROVIDED "AS IS" WITHOUT ANY WARRANTIES OR CONDITIONS, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THOSE CONCERNING MERCHANTABILITY AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NEITHER ANGEL BABUDRO NOR ANYONE ELSE WHO HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN THE CREATION, PRODUCTION, OR DELIVERY OF THIS SOFTWARE SHALL BE LIABLE FOR ANY INDIRECT, CONSEQUENTIAL, OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES ARISING OUT OF THE USE OR INABILITY TO USE THIS SOFTWARE EVEN IF ANGEL BABUDRO HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES OR CLAIMS. IN NO EVENT SHALL THE AUTHOR'S LIABILITY FOR ANY DAMAGES EVER EXCEED THE PRICE PAID FOR THE LICENSE TO USE WML, REGARDLESS OF THE FORM OF CLAIM. THE PERSON USING WML BEARS ALL RISK AS TO THE QUALITY AND PERFORMANCE OF THE SOFTWARE.

Some States do not allow the exclusion of the limit of liability for consequential or incidental damages, so the above limitation may not apply to you.

This agreement shall be governed by the State of Colorado and shall inure to the benefit of Angel Babudro and any successors, administrators, heirs and assigns. Any action or proceeding brought by either party against the other arising out of or related to this agreement shall be brought only in a State or Federal Court of competent jurisdiction located in Delta County, Colorado. The parties hereby consent to in personam jurisdiction of said courts.

COPYRIGHT

WML is copyright (c) 1990-1995 by Angel Babudro, all rights reserved. You may only use and/or distribute WML only under the License terms below.

LICENSE

The following terms and conditions apply to the use and/or distribution of *What Mailing List?*:

1. WML is being distributed as Shareware; it is **not** free. You are granted a limited license to use WML for an evaluation period of up to 60 days, to determine if it suits your needs. Any other use of WML or use past this period requires registration.

--

What Mailing List?

2. You may keep as many backup copies of WML as you wish. The Registered Edition is limited to simultaneous use on the number of computers indicated by the Use License. The Unregistered Edition may be used on any number of computers for the purpose of evaluation as specified in paragraph (1).

3. All files originally distributed as part of the package (including this notice) must be included without modification. The complete list of files can be found in the PACKING.LST file which is part of this package. The Registered Edition CONFIG.WDT files and files ending in SFP or SFL are NOT to be distributed.

4. Individual users may freely copy this disk and share it with friends, family, and acquaintances. Non-profit groups (including user groups and BBSs) may distribute copies of this disk. A fee of no more than $5 may be charged to cover disk copying costs. If the files on this disk have dates more than a year old please contact the author for a free update to the current version.

5. Disk distributors and dealers must have written permission before selling copies of this software. When you contact me you will receive a free copy of the latest version and you will be placed on my mailing list to receive updates as they are released. Disk distributors may charge no more than $10 per disk for copies of this software. If, as a distributor, you supply copies to other resellers, the end price to the user may not exceed $10.

6. You must obtain written permission prior to distribution as part of any "bundled" packages (e.g., CD-ROM, placing on new computer systems, etc.). Such permission is often granted; the author is a nice guy - please write to him with your ideas.

7. If the software is packaged for retail sale the packaging must explain that the software is Shareware, that the purchaser is receiving a trial version, and that use beyond the trial period requires registration with the author.

8. You must immediately stop selling/distributing copies of this software upon notice from the author.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT (HOW TO REACH ME)

--

What Mailing List?

If you have questions or need help, just send a note to me through the mail or a BBS listed below. Registered users, those intending to register within 30 days, vendors, and BBS sysops may contact me via telephone as well. Sysops and shareware vendors please see VENDOR.DOC for concise distribution information.

Mail   Angel Babudro, "Organic Computer Wizardry", Box 132, Paonia, CO 81428 USA
Phone   (303) 527-6756 Tue-Fri 10am-6pm Mountain Time

I hope to be moving to a house of my own sometime in 1995 at which time my phone number will change and may often be no-one at the number above. So if you can't raise me on the phone please write to me - my mailing address will remain the same - or contact me via Expanding Horizons or The Researcher's BBS (below). (Registered users will receive a notice in the mail when I move.)

I am normally available by phone during the hours stated above. If you get the answering machine please leave a message. Unregistered users must call back later - I am happy to answer your questions but I cannot afford to pay for a return call.

Support & Updates from Bulletin Boards

My software packages are "**free**" downloads on the BBSs listed below - you need not subscribe to the BBS in order to download my shareware (although other files or functions may require subscription). You may send questions or comments to me on The Researcher's BBS and Expanding Horizons - address your comments to "Angelo Babudro" (I use "Angelo" to avoid gender confusion, and I'm used to both names anyway). Scan for the file name **WML*.*** to locate the latest version.

West Coast   Researcher's BBS (CA)   USR Dual (805) 949-8151
                You must fill out this BBS' registration information the first time you log-on before gaining access to my conference.
                * Enter "**J;136**" to join the OrganicSftwr conference
                * Enter "**F**" to list files
                * Enter "**E**" to post messages for me. Messages can be sent to this board at FidoNet address 1:102/1310.

                Expanding Horizons (CO)   14.4k V.32 (303) 241-2847
                This is my local BBS so it is the one I most often update

--

What Mailing List?

and check for messages. Log on with the name "**OC WIZ**" and the password "**WHAT**" to bypass the registration process so you can begin downloading right away. If you log on using your own name you will have to register before you can leave me a message or download any files.
* Enter "**J;3**" to join the Organic Soft conference
* Enter "**F**" to view the list of available files
* Enter "**E Angelo Babudro**" to enter messages for me

Midwest   Rusty 'n Edie's (OH) USR HST 16.8 (216) 726-1804
                                        USR V.Everything 28.8 (216) 726-3628
                                        Hayes 28.8 (216) 726-3619
                                        ZyXel 19.2k v.32/v.32bis (216) 726-3620
                                        2400/v.32/v.32bis (216) 726-2620
                                        CompuCom SpeedModem (216) 726-3584

East Coast Excalibur (Central NY)   USR Dual (315) 736-3792
            You can FREQ (File REQuest) my software from this board via RBBS Net address A:954/401, FidoNet address 1:26501, or I.C. Net address 91:315/101.

            WhiTech BBS (NC) ZyXEL 14.4 V32b/V42b (910) 944-1165
            File Request (FREQ) via FidoNet at 1:3636/2.

            Software Creations (MA)   2400bps MNP5 (508) 365-2359
                                        USR Dual Standard 14.4k (508) 368-7036
                                        USR HST/Dual Std 16.8k (508) 365-2032
                                        USR Dual Std v.32Terbo (508) 368-6604
            This BBS offers over 120 phone lines and tons of Shareware. They call it "Home of the Authors." It's also home of Night Owl CD-ROM.

ORDERING METHODS AND REGISTRATION FEES

Years of effort have gone into this software in the hopes that many people will be willing to pay for a small part of the development. Kindly remember that **if you use this software past the 60-day trial period** you are honour-bound to **pay the registration fee.** Besides, there are several benefits to registration!

Benefits of Registration

--

What Mailing List?

The Shareware (unregistered) version of WML is fully functional so that you may try all of its features and know exactly for what you are paying. Past the 60-day evaluation period WML will display reminders to register your copy or discontinue use of the software, but it will always continue to be fully functional.

When you register you have the following benefits:

- You get the latest version direct from the author with automated installation, free PCL soft fonts, and bonus Shareware and Freeware.
- You get thorough manual, including an introductory course in using computers with sections on hardware, software, and DOS, in addition to WML.
- Unlimited telephone support - my business hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10am to 6pm Mountain Time.
- Updates are free - get them from a local BBS or Shareware vendor. As new features are added, WML's price is sometimes adjusted to reflect the dramatic increase in its value to users. By registering now, you pay the current (low) price and are entitled to the higher-priced features developed in the future. Updates through the mail are available for just $4.
- You can subscribe to receive updates & upgrades as soon as they are released so you will always have the latest features and enhancements.
- The Shareware License display and Unregistered Edition delay go away.
- It rewards the author for thousands of hours of software development from which you are deriving benefit. It's the right thing to do and will surely come back to you in blessings & good karma.

How To Order

Send cash, check, or money order in U.S. funds; Canadian cheques or foreign cash are also acceptable. No Purchase Orders please; instead use the invoice (below) and, since you are and have been using the Unregistered Edition, consider it the case that you are paying for delivered merchandise.

If you prefer to use a credit card, you can order WML from Public (software) Library with your MC, Visa, AmEx, or Discover card by calling 800-242-4PsL (from overseas: 713-524-6394) or by FAX to 713-524-6398 or by CompuServe to 71355,470. THESE NUMBERS ARE FOR ORDERING ONLY. I CANNOT be reached at those numbers. To contact me for information about dealer pricing, volume discounts, site licensing, the status of shipment of the

--

product, the latest version number, or for technical information, call 303-527-6756 or write me at PO Box 132, Paonia, CO USA 81428. With Shareware you try the software before buying it; therefore, product returns are not allowed.

When ordering from PsL ask for **product #10800**.

Pricing

Commercial Use License with Disk, US Zip Codes Data Base, Manual, and Computer Course — $49. This gives you a license to use one copy of WML along with the latest Registered Edition on disk (with automated installation), a data base of over 70,000 US Zip Codes (so WML will know virtually all cities and states in the USA), the latest version of this documentation on disk, PCL soft fonts, notification of major updates, and a 3-ring-bound manual printed on either tree-free or recycled paper. The manual contains an introductory course in computers plus a complete guide to using WML. The course covers computer components (hardware), DOS & software basics, etc. This course is for the newcomer and covers all the topics necessary to understand and maintain your computer.

Wholesale & OEM –– If you want to bundle WML with your own special product or service (such as a special mailing list) and resell it, please write to me with your idea.

Site License –– If your firm has multiple computers on which WML will be installed you may opt to purchase a Use License (above) plus a site license. With a site license you are provided with a disk for each computer but just one printed manual which may be photo-copied (although additional copies may be purchased). Use the Help/Site License option on the WML menu to print a Site License form.

Free Updates — When you register I will send you a "key" which will work with future releases. You can download updates from a bulletin board or otherwise obtain an update and it will recognize your registration "key".[1]

Updates Though the Mail — An update disk with the latest versions of all

---

[1]Be sure to **delete** CONFIG.WDT from copies you share with BBSs and others. Not only does it contain all the settings on your system and certain pieces of your data, it also contains your registration key and your name.

--

What Mailing List?

my shareware costs $4 plus shipping. Updates are released every 1-8 weeks.

Update Subscription — You can subscribe to receive updates automatically through the mail. In return you agree to send $4 plus shipping within 30 days. There is no time commitment; either party may cancel at any time with written notice.

Prices & specifications are subject to change without notice. Vendors & sysops please see VENDOR.DOC & SYSOP.DOC.

What Mailing List?

INVOICE & REGISTRATION
Credit card orders see "How To Order" above

REMIT TO: **FROM:**

  Angel Babudro   Name_____
  "Organic Computer Wizardry"
  PO Box 132   Company_____
  Paonia, CO 81428
  USA   Address_____

                                                  _____

                                                Phone_____

Use License   Disk, manual, & computer course($49) _____

Shipping &   Continental U.S.A. - add $3
Handling   Canada, AK, HI, VI, PR - add $5
                     Outside U.S.A. & Canada - add $9   _____

                                         ***T O T A L = $_____

Update Subscription

--

What Mailing List?

Do you want to receive updates in the mail every 2 to 4 months? Updates are $4 plus shipping; you'll have 30 days to pay or return the disk to cancel.

What Mailing List?

YES [__]

NO [__]

Disk size   [__] 3½"   [__] 5¼"
Drive density   [__] Low (DD) required   [__] High (HD) ok
FDFORMAT/FDREAD   [__] FDFORMAT extended densities okay

Printer make(s) & model(s)_____
Which version are you using now? (see Help/About screen)_____
I got my copy from _____
I saw a review in_____

Upon receipt of this paid invoice the latest Registered Edition disk and any options ordered above will be sent. Mail with your cash, cheque, money order in U.S. funds; Canadians may send Cdn$. Put comments on back. Allow 1-4 weeks for the latest version to land on your doorstep. Thank you for registering!

What Mailing List?

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Bulletin Board sysops who have provided so much helpful feedback, especially Skip Taylor of The Researcher's BBS (CA), Mike Halley of the Vietnam Vets BBS (IN), and Tom McElvy of Pleasure Communications (VA). I am also grateful for all of the WML users who have also provided a wealth of helpful comments.

Any trademarks I happen to mention here are property of their respective owners.

WHAT DOES THIS SOFTWARE DO?

What Mailing List? provides a simple and flexible way to easily manage and print mailing lists. WML has the tools to track relatively small amounts of information - hundreds or a few thousand names - although there is no limit to the number of files[2] and a theoretical limit of 5.5 million entries per file. You'll need a faster computer and a new hard disk before any of that becomes a problem.

WML is perfect for those times when you want a good-looking envelope or label, or maybe a hundred, but not fifty thousand. Software that is made to handle huge lists tends to be horribly complicated to use. WML is different.

I use WML regularly as I develop it: when I need an envelope I print it on my laser, and when I need a few labels I switch to the dot matrix printer. It's very fast and easy for me, and I hope you find WML just as easy and fast to use.

Learning WML can probably be done as you are using it, with little or no help from this manual. Keep an eye on the bottom of the screen since that is where I list special function keys. If you use a mouse, these commands can be accessed with the mouse as well.

HOW TO READ THIS MANUAL

---

[2]WML can handle up to 250 files per directory. You can have any number of files, though, by using more than one directory. You may supply the name of a directory when you start WML - for example, WML D:\WML\DATA will use the D:\WML\DATA directory for creating and opening files.

--

What Mailing List?

This shareware manual is intended for people with some knowledge of computers, DOS, and data bases. A detailed manual containing an introductory computer course and coverage of more advanced topics is provided with the Registered Edition.

Check the <u>System Requirements</u> section (below) before you begin. Next, read the <u>Using What Mailing List? for the First Time</u> section. If you are an advanced user this is probably all you will need to read before using WML, however you probably want to review the Preferences screens to be sure WML will behave as you wish.

The rest of the manual is a reference guide, each menu item of WML being described separately. Once you have WML "up and running" use this guide to refer to specific things you want more information about. For example, if you want to understand how Groups are used, look up "Groups" in the Table of Contents or Index.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The bare minimum you will need is:
1. Any IBM-PC-compatible with a 720k floppy or better
2. At least 400k of free RAM (use CHKDSK or MEM)
3. One of the operating systems listed below

I recommend you have:
1. An 80286 or faster computer
2. A hard disk with at least one megabyte of free space and an access time below 30ms
3. 512k or more available expanded or extended memory
4. A hard disk cache

WML has been tested and found to work properly with the following Disk Operating Systems (DOS) and command interpreters:
* PC-DOS 3.3[3] and 6.1
* MS-DOS 5.0, 6.2, and 6.22

---

[3]PC-DOS or MS-DOS version 3.1 or later should work fine. Except for file locking, previous versions should also work fine. However, WML has **only** been tested with the versions listed above, so I cannot guarantee the performance with other DOSs. If you are using an older DOS, I recommend upgrading to one of the versions listed above.

--

What Mailing List?

* 4DOS 4.0 & 5.0
* DR-DOS 6 and Novell DOS 7
* OS/2 2.1

You will need 500-950k of disk space for the programme files, depending on which optional files you decide to keep on your disk, plus space for the files you will create. You may keep the data files and programme files in different directories or on different disks, so floppy disk use is possible (although it will be very slow compared to a hard disk).

WML will detect whether you have a monochrome or colour card installed, but it cannot detect what type of monitor you have. If you have a monochrome (black & white) monitor with a CGA, EGA, or VGA controller (this includes laptop & notebook computers) the screen may be difficult to read. If so, try starting with the "/Monochrome" switch like so: "WML /M".

Practical File Size Limitations

Although WML has a *theoretical* limit of 5.5 million names per mailing list file, you would need a super-computer or a lot of time to manage it. The number of names you can manage within a single disk file depends on the speed of your computer. Here are my ideas of what you can reasonably expect from different computer systems:

Computer Type	Practical File Size Limit
PC/XT (4.77MHz)	300 entries per file
286/12	1,000 entries per file
386dx/20	1,700 entries per file
386dx/40	2,500 entries per file
486dx/33	3,000 entries per file
586 (Pentium)/66	5,000 entries per file

If you are a patient person, you may feel comfortable with going well over these guidelines, and vice versa for impatient people. I'm also taking into account that people running a 486 expect faster response than people using XTs; I think that WML would locate a name in a 3,000-entry file on a 486dx/33 faster than it would in a 25-entry file on a PC/XT - an 8088 is slow compared to a 486 no matter what it's doing.

You can store millions of entries by creating hundreds of files. However, certain features such as duplicate checking will only work within a

--

What Mailing List?

single file. You can consolidate or separate files at any time, so you can enter your data now and experiment with different ways of organizing it as you please.

Printers

WML supports two types of printers concurrently -- a laser printer and a dot matrix printer on LPT1, LPT2, or LPT3. The laser printer must be a PCL 1-5 printer (compatible with H-P LaserJet I, II, or III). WML has been tested on Panasonic 4450 (H-P LaserJet I-compatible) and H-P LaserJet III & IV laser printers. I'm sure there are some lasers which could be better supported, so let me know if you own one of them. PCL 5 laser owners will be happy to know that they can use the scalable fonts.

If your printer is not on the list check in your printer's manual for its compatibility. Most dot matrix printers are compatible with Epson or IBM, so try these if you can't find a proper match. If you have trouble, send me a note with your printer model & the problem.

Networks

With version 2.1 I have placed file "locks" to allow WML to be used on networks which use the DOS SHARE utility. LANtastic uses SHARE as do the majority of networks. OS/2 does not use SHARE but has a method which is similar and works with WML.

Network users: Please share your experiences with me. One WML user has a Novell 3.11 network and had problems only when using a station running MS-DOS 6.22 and DoubleSpace (this problem has since been resolved). If you tell me about any problems you have I will work with you to correct them.

I have designed WML to allow one station to open a particular mailing list (.WML) file. The configuration, abbreviation, group, and zip codes files may be shared by more than one station unless they are being updated (in which case you will see a message in a window and you may try the operation again, after the other user has completed her/his update).

Using With MS Windows

WML can be run as a DOS application under Windows 3.1 although it is not a Windows application (in other words, it runs the same in DOS or

--

What Mailing List?

Windows and you cannot use any of Windows' features with WML, such as the clip-board). If you don't use Windows or use it only occasionally (as I do), then use WML from DOS since it will work better without Windows' quirks & overhead. If you normally have Windows loaded, however, then go ahead and set up an icon for WML. To do this, highlight or create a group, then use File/New to create a program item and define it as C:\WML\WML.EXE (or whatever directory you are using) and set the data directory to C:\WML or some other, as you desire.

You may also use Windows' File Manager's "Associate" feature to connect ".WML" files with the WML programme. If you do this you can double-click on a WML data file from the File Manager and Windows will automatically launch WML using that data file.

Using With 4DOS

WML has been tested with 4DOS versions 4.0 and 5.0. WML uses the standard 4DOS "DESCRIPT.ION" file to store, update, and access long file descriptions. If you use 4DOS, when you issue the DIR command from DOS you will see the file descriptions that you entered for your WML files. Likewise, if you use the 4DOS DESCRIBE command to change the description of a WML file, the new description will be used by WML.

USING What Mailing List? FOR THE FIRST TIME

Quick Start

If you received WML on disk you will have already used the INSTALL programme to install it on your hard disk or high-capacity floppy. Likewise, if you received WML from a BBS you have already expanded the archive in which WML came. So you should already have done these steps:

1. Created a directory for WML (or specified one in the INSTALL programme), such as C:\WML. I strongly recommend that you place WML (and all software) in its own directory rather than mixing packages in the same directory.
2. If you got WML from a BBS you should have changed to that directory (e.g., CD \WML) and then expanded the archive, placing all the files in that directory.

Once WML is installed on your hard disk here are the steps needed to

--

What Mailing List?

begin using it right away:

1. Type "WML" at the DOS prompt.
2. Press "P" to open the Preferences menu.
3. Go down the list and fill in each preference window as necessary. You can operate WML without setting any preferences, however, WML may not operate in a way which best suits you. For example, if you work in a quiet office and don't want error tones you can turn them off on the Preferences/Other screen.
4. Use File/New to create a file. All mailing list entries must be placed within a file, so you must open or create a file before entering data.

NOTE   WML may be started from any disk or directory. The configuration, group, abbreviation, and zip code files will be accessed from whatever directory contains WML.EXE (e.g., C:\WML). The mailing list files will be created and opened in the current directory. So if you go to floppy drive A: and then start WML, mailing list files will be opened and/or created on drive A:

Before you can start entering addresses you will need to create at least one mailing list file. Do this by selecting the "New" option under "File" (described below). Before you can print anything you will have to set your Preferences, at the very least defining your printer(s).

Before you print anything on a laser printer you may want to try a test (especially with laser labels which are expensive). The first time you print laser labels I suggest you print them on a sheet of paper then hold the paper and the labels together up to a light source to see if everything lines up properly. You can adjust the top and left margins as necessary. Any changes you make will be saved for the future.

Quick Exit

WML has a Quick Exit feature, so you can leave the programme quickly if need be. Just press the F10 key from any screen.

Updating To a Newer Release

If you download WML from a bulletin board (BBS) or get a copy from a friend or shareware vendor, just replace the old files with the new ones. As you extract an archive you will be prompted for each file to be over-written; using DOS COPY the files may be replaced without prompting. The new

What Mailing List?

version will recognize your registration "key" in your CONFIG.WDT file (which is **not** distributed with the Unregistered Edition). If you can't find WML on a bulletin board in your area, ask a sysop about FREQing it from the BBS networks listed in the "Technical Support (How To Reach Me)" section or send for a floppy disk update (see "Updates" section above).

Choosing a Directory for WML

It is a good idea to install WML in its own directory under the root. Giving each software package its own directory keeps things organized and can improve file access speed. Besides this, the root directory is typically limited to 128 files, whereas a subdirectory can contain any number of files. You might use "C:\WML" (or any valid drive letter), or maybe put all of your business programmes under an "\APPS" directory and thus use "\APPS\WML".

You may organize things further by placing your data files and programme files in separate directories, however, this is only helpful if you will be keeping files for different people or have a large number of files which are difficult to view in a single list. You may also want to keep your data files in a different directory if you commonly import & export data. For example, you might keep your WML files with some dBase files to and from which you swap information.

Let's say you put WML.EXE and all of its files in a directory C:\WML. To start WML from the DOS prompt just go your data directory (for example, "CD \LISTS\BUSINESS") then type "C:\WML\WML" and press ENTER. If you want to keep your data files in the same directory as the programme, that makes it even simpler: Just go to that directory (e.g., "CD \WML") then type "WML" -- you don't need to type the path name because you are in the proper directory already.

Highlight "Preferences" and press **<Enter>** (or press the letter "P", or point & click with your mouse) — you will see a list of choices. Select each item by pressing the highlighted letter or by highlighting it using the arrow keys and pressing **<Enter>**.

After you are done setting your preferences, press ESC to close the Preferences menu then press "F" for the File menu. If no files are on disk, the only option available will be "New" and "Exit". Press "N" and type a name for your mailing list file. In a couple of seconds the list will be created and you'll be ready to go. That's all there is to it!

--

What Mailing List?

Using an LCD or Monochrome Screen with a Colour Card

If you have a monochrome (Black & White) monitor connected to a colour adapter card or a lap-top or notebook computer with an LCD screen, you will see shades of grey instead of colours. This may not be very readable. You can force WML to run in monochrome mode by using the "/M" switch like so:

WML /M

You may want to put the "/M" in WML.BAT using a text editor.

Specifying a Data Drive and/or Directory

Normally, WML will use the default disk drive and directory for data files. However, you may specify a disk drive, directory, and/or file name on the command line when you start WML. The syntax is:

WML [d:[\pathname\[filename]]]

Examples:

WML B: starts WML and uses drive B: for data files.

WML C:\DATA starts WML and uses C:\DATA\ for data files.

WML C:\DATA starts WML; if the file C:\DATA.WML exists it will be opened for use, otherwise the directory C:\DATA\ will be used for data files.

WML C:\DATA\MYFILE.WML starts WML using the data directory C:\DATA\ and opens the file MYFILE.WML.

Using the Menus

WML uses CUA-style pull-down menus, which is the standard used by QuickBASIC, Macintosh, and Windows. Basically, there is a horizontal menu of choices -- File, Data Entry, etc. Under each of the horizontal choices is a menu of functions pertaining to that item -- it is a two-dimensional menu, in other words. The last item of the left-most menu is always Exit, to end the programme or the sub-menu you are on.

--

What Mailing List?

There are two ways to select an item from the main menu:

1. Press the letter which is highlighted in the option's name
2. Use the Up/Down/Right/Left arrows to highlight the option you want then press **<Enter>** (a.k.a. RETURN or CR).

Certain pop-up menus do not have a highlighted letter associated with each option. On these menus you must use the arrow keys to highlight your choice then press **<Enter>**.

If you want to cancel an operation you selected, just press the Esc ("Escape") key.

Status Line

At the top of your screen is WML's title followed by the WML file you have open (if any). At the bottom of the screen is a bar which looks like this:

Total│Selected│Bad/Omit│Pack│Index│01-01-1980

From left to right the items are:
1.   Total records in the open file
2.   Total records selected for printing
3.   Total records bad or excluded from mailings
4.   The word |Pack| if there are entries which are marked for deletion
5.   Selected indexing method (name, company, address, or zip).
6.   To-day's date (so far as the computer knows). If you have a filter chosen, this will be replaced with "**Filter**" followed by a word indicating the single filter in use or the first letter of each of multiple filters in use. If the filter message is **bright** the selection is unchanged, otherwise changes have occurred. For example, suppose you have set the filter to "Selected" then cleared the selection status of a record. The filter message would change to dim since the filter is no longer accurate.

MANAGING & PRINTING YOUR FILES

The "File" menu contains options to use and manage your files and to print entries from these files. Here is a summary of the choices under the File menu:
● New - Create a new mailing list file
● Open - Open an existing mailing list file

--

What Mailing List?

- Close - Close the open file
- Delete - Erase a file from the disk
- Change - Rename a file and/or change its description
- Back-up - Make a back-up copy of data files
- Restore - Restore data files from a back-up copy
- Format Floppies - Format floppy disks (for back-up use)
- Re-Index - Re-build the index files for the open mailing list file. This is normally handled automatically, but there may be times when WML cannot detect an error and you must perform this function yourself.
- Pack - Remove entries which are flagged to be deleted
- Import - Bring data into the open file from another file format
- Export - Send data to a different file format
- Print/Select/Query - Menu of ways to print your list, choose which entries are to be printed or otherwise operated upon, and search the file
- Exit - End WML and return to DOS

Many of these options cannot be used at certain times. For example, if you have an empty mailing list file the Print option is useless so WML won't let you use it. Valid options have a bright white letter; non-valid ones are gray with no highlighted letter.

Creating a New File

What Mailing List? can list up to 350 files in a single directory. If you need more than this number simply organize your files into more than one directory. When you choose the **F**ile/**N**ew option you will be asked to enter a name and description for the new file; the description is optional and can be changed as desired. The name will be checked for proper DOS syntax and you will be warned if the file name you entered already exists. If everything is okay your new file will be created and opened for use.

Opening an Existing File

Just like using a filing cabinet, you have to open a file before you can see what's in it. **F**ile/**O**pen let's you open a file which has been previously created.

After you select this option you will be presented with a list of the WML files in the current directory. Use the up and down arrow keys to highlight the file you wish to use, then press **<Enter>**.

--

What Mailing List?

Note that entries will be displayed and printed in the order indicated on the bottom status line. To change the indexing sequence use the Index menu.

Saving/Closing a File

WML saves your information every time you change something. If you enter information and press the Esc key or click on a "Cancel" button with your mouse a message will warn you about losing any changes you have made. The only danger comes with a power outage or anything else that causes WML to end improperly (such as pressing the reset button or Ctrl-Alt-Del). However, even in this case the only thing you would lose are any changes to the entry displayed on the screen. Just the same, it's safest to use **F**ile/**C**lose when you will be away from your computer for a while. That way if anything happens while you are away your information is saved.

There are two functions which cannot be performed on an open file: **D**elete and C**h**ange. If you want to erase the open file from the disk or change its description you must close it first.

Deleting a File

The **F**ile/**D**elete function gives you a convenient way to remove files from your disk. When you select this option you will get the same file list you see with the "Open" option.[4] Highlight a file and press **<Enter>**, and the computer will read the name back to you (to be sure you picked the right one) and ask for permission to continue. If you press **<Enter>** (or click on "Ok") then the file will be erased from the disk (along with it's indices).

Changing a File's Name & Description

The **F**ile/C**h**ange option let's you enter a new DOS file name and/or a new description for any unopened mailing list file. Once you choose this option you will see the file list. Choose a file and the file name window will pop open. Change anything you like and select "Ok" to save it.

Transferring Files

To move a particular file between computers (say, a lap-top and desk-

---

[4]The list will **not** contain the name of the open file (if any), only the files which are "put away."

--

What Mailing List?

top) you will need to copy more than just the data file for proper operation. A complete set of data consists of:

> 1. The data file (ending in WML)
> 2. The index files (ending in IX*)
> 3. The group definitions (files matching GROUPS.*)

You can re-create the index files if you do not copy them, but it is usually faster to copy them. If the GROUPS files are missing you will not be able to select records by group nor will you be able to change or view the group settings.

The easiest way to be sure you have it all is to copy all of your data files using the Back-up option under the File menu. Alternately, you can use the DOS copy command to copy the files outlined above.

To demonstrate, let's say you have several mailing list files and you only want to put one of them on a 3.5" floppy to use on your lap-top. Let's call the list MYLIST and assume that your 3.5" disk drive is B:

> 1. Go to your WML directory (e.g., **CD \WML**)
> 2. **COPY MYLIST.* B:** to copy the data & index files
> 3. **COPY GROUPS.* B:** to copy the group definitions

Making Back-up Copies of Your Files

Your computer is a machine and one day it will probably break down. **F**ile/**B**ack-up protects your information by making a copy of it on another disk.

You must have a formatted disk ready. You can use the same back-up disk over and over again (the new copy will over-write the old one), but it is a good idea to alternate at least three back-up copies just in case there is a problem (such as a power outage) while you are creating a back-up; in this case if the computer crashed and the back-up was incomplete you would still have two other back-up copies on which to rely. When the work you've done since your last back-up would be heart-breaking to lose, it's time to make another back-up.

Using compression software packs more information in less space (so you can use fewer floppy disks) but requires more memory (RAM). The compression software WML is programmed to use and their memory

--

What Mailing List?

requirements are as follows:

> ARJ 2.41 needs at least 300k free
> LHARC 2.13 needs at least 189k free
> PKZip 2.04g needs at least 157k free

After you select **F**ile/**B**ack-up a summary window pops open and a menu of methods will be presented, starting with "DOS Copy" and including each compression technique which is found on your computer (using your DOS PATH setting) and for which you have enough free memory. Once you choose a method you are asked to enter the back-up destination (which is typically a floppy disk drive, such as A:, but you may decide to back-up to another hard disk, a network drive, etc.). All WML data files will then be backed-up to the destination disk and directory using the method shown in the window.

Restoring Files from a Back-up Copy

If you ever need to recover data files from a floppy disk you made using the File/Back-up command (above), just place the floppy disk in its drive and select **F**ile/**R**estore. The first thing you will be asked is to specify the disk drive from which to restore files. Once you highlight a drive and press ENTER the list of files on that disk will be shown - individual data files as well as any compressed archives. Highlight each file you wish to restore and press the SpaceBar key; you will see an arrow appear next to each file as it is selected. If you change your mind, just press the SpaceBar again and the arrow will go away, indicating that the file will not be restored. Alternately, you may use the mouse and click the left button instead of using the arrow keys and SpaceBar.

Once you have selected all the files you wish to restore press the ENTER key or click on the "Ok" button with a mouse. Each file will be copied into the current data directory.[5] Any compressed archives being restored will automatically be expanded.

Formatting Floppy Disks

This option is for those times when you have decided to make a back-

---

[5]The directory from which WML is started is considered the data directory - it is where the data files are stored. For example, if you are in the C:\WML\ DATA directory and you run WML from there, then files will be created in, backed-up from, and restored to this directory.

--

What Mailing List?

up copy of your data but don't have a formatted disk handy or want to re-format a disk to check for any bad spots. **File/Format Floppies** lets you format a floppy disk to your computer's standard density without exiting WML. By "standard density" I mean that if you have a high density drive you can only format high density disks (in other words, WML doesn't pass any parameters to DOS FORMAT). There is an exception to this:

   If you have *What Floppy Format?* (WFF.EXE) available somewhere in your DOS search path, WML will automatically access it for formatting floppy disks so you can format any kind of disk using FDFORMAT. (You will receive a complimentary copy of the latest version of WFF with your WML registration. FDFORMAT is a Freeware product by another author and can be found on my support BBSs.)

Fixing Damaged Index Files (Re-Indexing)

   Sometimes a data base's index files can be damaged. This can typically happen with a power outage, resetting the computer (pressing Ctrl-Alt-Del or the Reset button) while running WML, etc. Most often WML will detect a problem with the index files and correct it automatically, but there may be times when it cannot detect a problem. If it ever seems like entries are missing from your files or the record counts are off, use the **F**ile/Re-**I**ndex option to re-build the indices and count the Selected, Bad, Omit, and Deleted entries for the open mailing list file.

Removing Records Which Are Marked for Deletion (Packing)

   File/P**a**ck is used to remove deleted records from the mailing list data base which is currently in use. Entries which are marked for deletion remain in a mailing list file the file is Packed. This can be handy if you accidentally mark a record for deletion because you can "un-mark" it; or you could use this feature to mark all the records you want to delete then review the records on the screen before actually packing the file.

Importing Data from Other Software

   File/I**m**port allows you to read data from other files to become a part of the mailing list file you are using (the Open file, shown at the top of the screen). Once you select import, you will be shown a menu of file types, including:

--

What Mailing List?

- ASCII file
- What Mailing List? 2.x file
- DBF file
- WordPerfect file

There are two items on the Preferences/Other screen which affect the way files are imported: Import Duplicate Rule and Import Technique. The former setting determines how duplicate entries will be handled, the latter determines how WML will handle missing data in the name and company name fields. Refer to the Preferences section for more details about these two items.

While importing WML checks for a valid zip/postal codes. If an entry contains a potentially bad code the entry is flagged as "Selected to print" so that you may easily review these entries after importing is completed.

Highlight the type of file you would like to import and press **<Enter>**. Descriptions of each file type follow.

Importing ASCII files

An ASCII file must have commas delimiting each field and one record per line (i.e., CR/LF or ASCII 13 10 terminates a record). WML automatically detects NAD and WML ASCII files and you can define the layout for **any** ASCII file.

Once you have specified the ASCII file to import, WML will show you two windows: 1) on the right, a window with the names of each WML field, and 2) on the left, a window showing the input file's fields which are assigned to the highlighted WML field (initially "None").

Use the arrow keys to highlight a WML field then press the **F3** key. A window showing the data from the first record of the file will open, with each field on a separate line. Just highlight the field which belongs to the WML field and press the **<SpaceBar>** - an arrow will appear indicating that the field is chosen. You may continue to choose as many fields as you like; fields will be added together with a space in-between. Of course, the input data may be truncated (cut) if a WML field is shorter than the data coming in.

Once you have defined just how WML is to import the ASCII file you may wish to save the set-up in case you ever want to import this

--

What Mailing List?

type of file again. Just press the **F7** key and enter a name for the definition. If you press F9 without pressing F7 first, WML will ask if you want to save the definition.

After you have saved definitions you can restore them from disk using the **F5** key. When you press **F5** WML will ask for a directory name (unless you have a reason to do otherwise, just press **<Enter>** to use WML's home directory). After you press **<Enter>** or click on "Ok" you will see a list of available definition files (if any). Highlight the one you want and press **<Enter>**.

To view the definition of each WML field just press the up and down arrow keys and watch the contents of the window on the left - it will change to reflect the definition of each field.

To clear the definition for a field press **F3** to bring up the list of input fields (you will see arrows highlighting the chosen fields) and press the **<Esc>** key. Alternately you may highlight each input field and press the **<SpaceBar>** to toggle the arrow on & off.

To begin importing, press the **F9** key.

Importing WML files

This option is handy for consolidating several files into one. Just select **File/Import/WML** and you will see the file list box. Choose a file, then choose whether to import all of the records or just those which are selected for printing, and away it goes. As usual, you will see a progress graph and the record number count on the bottom status line will be updated.

This is a handy way to separate a group of entries which have grown too large. For example, let's say you had a list of clients grouped by occupation and one occupation became so large that you wanted to put them in a separate file. You could select all of the records with that particular group for printing. Then, create a new file and import the selected records. Back in your old file you can delete all of the selected records. Now you have a new file with just the records you want in it.

Importing DBF (dBase) files

--

What Mailing List?

WML's DBF import can handle any file made by dBase III, FoxBase, dB XL, dB Fast, QuickSilver, Clipper, or any other dBase clone. Many information organizers (including other mailing list managers) use the DBF file format. Chances are, if the file ends in DBF you can import it into WML.

When you select this option from the menus you will be asked to enter a file specification and "*.DBF" will be the default answer. Type the name of the DBF file you want to import or use the DOS wildcards to scan a file list. For example, you might type "C:\DBASE*.DBF" to see a list of files in that directory or you might type the whole file name something like, "C:\DBASE\MYFILE.DBF".

Once the DBF file is established you will see two windows with field names. On the right are the WML field names. On the left are some or all of the DBF field names for the file to be imported.

Once you have specified the DBF file to import, WML will show you two windows: 1) on the right, a window with the names of each WML field, and 2) on the left, a window showing the input file's fields which are assigned to the highlighted WML field (initially "None").

Use the arrow keys to highlight a WML field then press the **F3** key. A window showing the list of input fields will open. Just highlight the input field which belongs to the WML field and press the **<SpaceBar>** - an arrow will appear indicating that the input field is chosen. You may continue to choose as many fields as you like - they will be added together with a space in-between. Of course, the input data may be truncated (cut) if a WML field is shorter than the data coming in.

Once you have defined just how WML should import the DBF file you may wish to save the set-up in case you ever want to import a file with the same field names again. Just press the **F7** key and enter a name for the definition. Unless you have reason to do otherwise, there is no need to enter a drive or path name. If you press F9 without pressing F7 first, WML will ask if you want to save the definition.

After you have saved definitions you can restore them from disk using the **F5** key. When you press **F5** WML will ask for a directory name (unless you have a reason to do otherwise, just press **ENTER** to

--

What Mailing List?

use WML's home directory). After you press **ENTER** or click on "Ok" you will see a list of available definition files (if any). Highlight the one you want and press **ENTER**.

To view the definition of each WML field just press the up and down arrow keys and watch the contents of the window on the left - it will change to reflect the definition of each field.

To clear the definition for a field press **F3** to bring up the list of input fields (you will see arrows highlighting the chosen fields) and press the **<Esc>** key. Alternately you may highlight each input field and press the **<SpaceBar>** to toggle the arrow on & off.

To begin importing press the **F9** key.

Importing Dr. Data Label files

If you have been using the mailing list package, Dr. Data Label, you can easily import your mailing lists into WML. DDLabel, as well as many other mailing list packages, uses a dBase-compatible file structure. To import these files just select the dBase DBF file import option and enter the path to your DDLabel files (e.g., C:\DDLABEL\ *.DBF, or you may enter the entire file name such as C:\DDLABEL\ MYFILE.DBF).

Once you have entered the file name correctly and you see the import definition screen, just press the F5 (Load) key. WML will ask you for the name of your import definition; enter the name **DDLABEL**. That's all there is to it. Just press the F9 key to begin importing.

For a more detailed description of the options on the dBase/DBF import screen refer to the preceding section, "Importing dBase/DBF Files."

Importing WordPerfect files

You can import WordPerfect mail merge files into WML using this function. Once you have specified the file to import, WML will show you two windows: 1) on the right, a window with the names of each WML field, and 2) on the left, a window showing the input file's fields which are assigned to the highlighted WML field (initially "None").

--

What Mailing List?

Use the arrow keys to highlight a WML field then press the **F3** key. A window will open showing the data from the first record of the file with each field on a separate line. If you are importing a WordPerfect 5.1 file which contains field names, then these names will appear in the window. Highlight a field which you want placed in the WML field and press the **<SpaceBar>** - an arrow will appear indicating that the field is chosen. You may continue to choose as many fields as you like; fields will be added together with a space in-between. If you define more data than a WML field can hold it will be truncated (i.e., chopped off).

Once you have defined how WML is to import the WordPerfect file you may wish to save the set-up in case you ever want to import this type of file again. Just press the **F7** key and enter a name for the definition. If you press F9 without pressing F7 first, WML will ask if you want to save the definition.

When you want to re-use an import definition you can restore it from disk using the **F5** key. When you press **F5** WML will ask for a directory name (unless you have a reason to do otherwise, just press **<Enter>** to use WML's home directory). After you press **<Enter>** or click on "Ok" you will see a list of available definition files (if any). Highlight the one you want and press **<Enter>**.

To view the definition of each WML field just press the up and down arrow keys and watch the contents of the window on the left - it will change to reflect the definition of each field.

To clear the definition for a field press **F3** to bring up the list of input fields (you will see arrows highlighting the chosen fields) and press the **<Esc>** key. Alternately you may highlight each input field and press the **<SpaceBar>** to toggle the arrow on & off.

To begin importing, press the **F9** key.

Grouping imported entries

When importing a data base from another application you may have some type of grouping code which you would like WML to use in grouping entries. This can be accomplished quite easily.

First, import the file into a WML file, assigning the code field from

--

the imported file to a comment line. Then use the Print/Select/Query menu to select entries based on the contents of the comment line using the Phrase sub-menu. Finally, use the Actions sub-menu to assign all selected records to the group of your choice.

For example, let's say you had a list of people who were either members, contributors, staff, or volunteers for an organization, and assume that each entry had a field (or line) which contained a code such as MEM for members, CON for contributors, etc. When this file is imported you would define the field containing the code to a comment line, thus placing the codes in the comments of each entry.

After the file is imported into WML you would access the Print/Select/Query menu and use the Phrase sub-menu to select records which contained an "MEM" in the comment line. Next, go to the Actions sub-menu and choose the Reset Selected to Groups option; WML will present the list of defined groups. Assuming there is a group called "Members" you would select that group and press the F7 key. WML would then assign all of these records to that group. Then you could use the All/Clear option to clear the selection and return to the Phrase sub-menu to select the next group of entries.

Exporting Data to Other Applications

File/E**x**port allows you to write data to a file in a different format. Once you select export, you will be shown a menu of file types:

- ASCII, comma-delimited
- ASCII, fixed field lengths
- ASCII, Ventura Publisher
- Mail Merge, Microsoft Word
- Mail Merge, WordPerfect

Highlight the type of file you would like to import and press **<Enter>**. Next you will be asked whether you would like to export all of the entries in the file, just the domestic entries (U.S. or Canada, depending on your country setting), or just the entries which are selected for printing. Highlight your choice and press **<Enter>** and the export file will be created.

ASCII, comma-delimited

This creates an ASCII (text) file which contains personal name,

--

What Mailing List?

company name, and address lines. Each field is enclosed in quotation marks and a comma separates each field. Carriage return & line feed codes (decimal codes 13 and 10) end each record (i.e., there is one complete entry (record) per line).

ASCII, fixed field length

This creates an ASCII file in which the fields are padded to their full length. For example, if the company name is "ABC, Inc." it will have 26 spaces following the name since the company name field has room for 35 characters. Carriage return & line feed codes (decimal codes 13 and 10) end each record. This is the file format required by the U.S. Post Office in order to check your files for correct address & 9-digit zip codes.

Note: If your country setting is "USA only" then the State field will be a length of two, otherwise it will be a length of 15.

Ventura Publisher

This is an ASCII text file with a "TXT" extension which can be loaded into a Ventura Publisher chapter file. Each line of the data begins with an "at" sign (@), the name of the field, a space, an equal sign (=), another space, and then the data. For example:

```
@NAME = John Q. Public
@COMPANY = ABC Company
@ADDRESS = 123 Main Street
@ADDRESS = Suite 102
@CSZ = Anytown, CO 81000
@COUNTRY = USA
```

Lines are double-spaced in the file since this is how VP determines end-of-paragraph in an ASCII file. Each field type is a paragraph tag so you can define the font and formatting characteristics for each field. When you load the file (using Load Text/Graphic) into a VP chapter and select the paragraph tool, you will see the field names in the paragraph tags window.

WordPerfect Merge

First you will be asked for a file name for the exported data.

--

What Mailing List?

Enter the full file name you wish to use, including drive and path if necessary. Once you finish with this function you will have an ASCII file which contains WordPerfect's merge codes. To prepare the file for use, start WordPerfect and import the ASCII file (Ctrl-F5, 1, 2). This is all you need do for WordPerfect 4.2 through 5.0.

If you are using version 5.1 you will have to create a "header" line at the top of the file which identifies each of the fields by a name. You do this by pressing Shift-F9, "M" (more), then select FIELD NAMES from the scrolling menu. You can use whatever field names you want but you must enter eight field names so that each WML field has a name associated with it.

Microsoft Word Merge

Just like with the WordPerfect Merge file, this option will make you an ASCII file which is in Word's merge format. I don't use Word, but in testing the mail merge operation I found that no special preparation was needed to use the file.

Querying & Selecting Entries to Print

Choosing this option under the File menu brings forth a whole new pull-down menu which lets you select or clear the records you wish to print and print labels/envelopes/etc.

Under the Print sub-menu are options to print and exit back to the top menu. Before printing you must first select the records to be printed, so I'll go through the select/query options first then the printing options later.

Selecting entries to be printed

Notice that the second item on the status line at the bottom of your screen shows the number of entries which are selected to print. This number will change as you use the options on this sub-menu.

"All" lets you mark or un-mark all records in the data
base.
"Group" lets you select or clear records according to the groups to
which they belong.
"Date/New" will mark or un-mark records which have never been
printed (i.e., the number of last mail date = 0). "Date/by Date"

--

What Mailing List?

will select or clear records based on a specific date you provide. "Individual/All" will allow you to scan the entire data base, marking and un-marking records one at a time. If you try to Select an entry which is flagged as Bad or Omit WML will offer to clear the flags for you. "Individual/Selected" will only show those entries which are currently selected, and "Individual/Deleted" will only show those entries which are flagged for deletion.

City and State/Province options let you select or clear entries based on exact matches in these fields.

Zip lets you select or clear entries based on a zip or postal code range.

Acting upon selected entries

The "Action" sub-menu lets you perform actions on the entries which are selected for printing.

1. **Reset selected to group(s)** will change the group setting for all selected records to the group(s) you choose.
2. **Add group(s) to selected** will add the group(s) you choose to the selected records, without changing the groups to which the entries already belong.
3. **Mark selected for deletion** will set the Delete flag for the selected entries.
4. **Clear Delete flag of selected** will turn off the Delete flag for the selected entries.
5. **Omit selected from mailings** will turn on the Omit flag for the selected entries. Since Omitted records can't be selected for printing, this also turns off the Select flag, resulting in zero entries being selected for printing.
6. **Clear all Omit flags** will clear the Omit flag for |all| entries in the file.
7. **Set selected to a date** let's you change the Times Mailed and Last Mail Date of the selected entries. This is handy for those times when you print a list but then don't actually mail to the people until a later date.
8. **Make selected 'Never mailed'** clears the Times Mailed and Last Mail Date fields. This is handy if you print a list and update these fields, then are unable to use the labels and need to print them again.

Remember that entries marked for deletion are **not** removed from the file until you use the **F**ile/P**a**ck option.

--

What Mailing List?

<u>Query examples</u>

WML's Query may seem limited at first glance, but it is actually quite comprehensive. At the time of this writing I found myself thinking that WML couldn't do a certain type of query and then realizing that it **could**, so I think some examples are in order.

Let's say you have two groups defined in a mailing list: Team A and Team B. Of the entries on file, some are part of Team A, some Team B, and some are both.

Now, let's say you want to send a mailing to all Team A members. First you may want to choose All/Clear to clear any existing selection, then you would choose Groups/Select and flag the group Team A in the Groups Window.

For another mailing you want to include all members of Team B who are **not** members of Team A. First, clear any existing selection. Second, use Groups/Select to flag all members of Team B. Finally, use Groups/Clear to clear all members of Team A from the selection.

For another mailing you may want to include all members of Team A who have not yet received a mailing. Use the Date/New option to select these. Or you can use Date/by Date to select members who last received a mailing on a certain date.

Whatever you need to do, chances are WML will do it. If you can't figure out how to get what you want, please let me know!

Printing

Note: You must define at least one printer and its fonts on the Preferences/Printer screen before you can select any printing options. The U.S. Post Offices prefer 10 to 14 point Helvetica type (a.k.a. Swiss or Univers) or another *sans serif* font (which means that it has no tops or bases. Times Roman & Dutch are serif fonts). The post office also has a hard time with italic type.
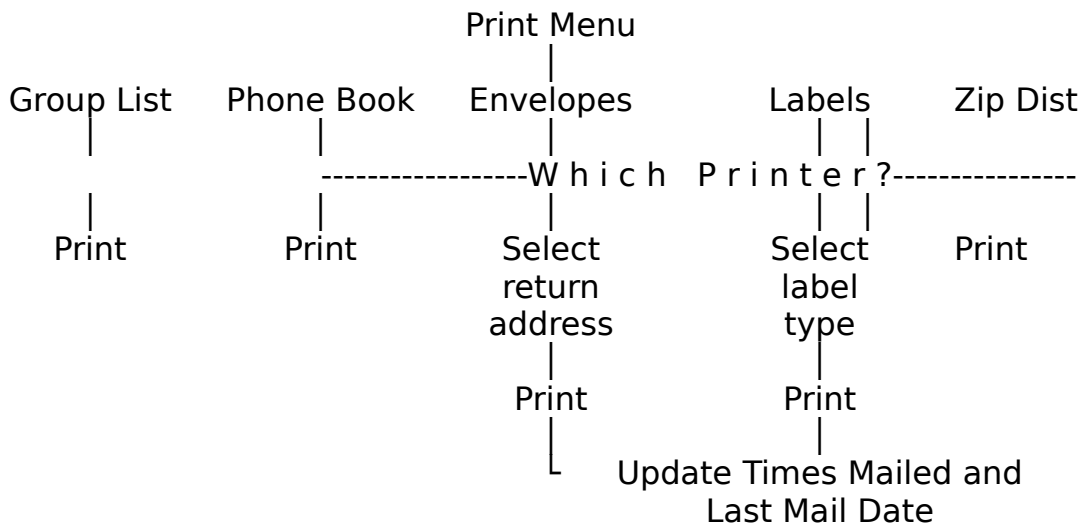
Some or all of the printing options on the "Print" sub-menu may be "grayed-out" and unavailable for use depending on certain conditions. For example, if you have not selected any entries for printing then all of the options except for "Group List" and "Exit" will

--

What Mailing List?

be gray and you will not be able to select them.

Note: The number of records which are selected for printing appears on the status line at the bottom of the screen.

Here is an overview of the sequence of events for printing:

```
                              Print Menu
                                  |
   Group List    Phone Book    Envelopes           Labels      Zip Dist
       |             |             |                 |  |
       |             ------------------W h i c h   P r i n t e r?---------------
       |             |             |                 |  |
     Print         Print         Select           Select        Print
                                 return            label
                                 address           type
                                   |                 |
                                 Print             Print
                                   |                 |
                                   └── Update Times Mailed and
                                          Last Mail Date
```

<u>11-digit Zip Codes</u>

The USPS's latest thing is an 11-digit zip code which pinpoints the delivery location for an item. The 11-digit zip is made up of a 9-digit zip plus two extra digits and a check-digit.[6] These two extra digits are normally the last two digits of the street address or Box, but there may be exceptions, the reasons for which are known to the USPS. My guess is that there are very few, if any, exceptions at this point, but the Post Office doesn't want to make a guarantee in case things change.[7]

If the 9-digit zip is known but the extra two digits are not known, WML will use the last two digits of the address.[8] On a bulk mailing, if this turns out to be incorrect you will never know because bulk mailings are not returned for bad addresses, but the post office tells

---

[6]The 12th digit of the extended zip code is calculated from the other 11 zip code digits and is used by OCR equipment to verify the accuracy of what they read.
[7]See USPS Publication 25, "Designing Business Letter Mail."
[8]You can disable this feature on the Preferences/Other Settings screen.

--

What Mailing List?

me that it won't have any effect beyond being undeliverable (e.g., it won't affect your bulk permit or anything like that).

The way to get the exact 11-digit zip codes for your mailing list is to submit them to the post office or a third-party service on disk and get zip code and address corrections. WML will very soon be able to make a disk to submit and read correction from disk - coming soon!

Other U.S. Postal Service considerations

One common thing you should know about addressing envelopes: the U.S. post office delivers to the address line which is just above the zip code. If you have two address lines (such as, "123 Anywhere Street" and "P.O. Box 17") the post office will send it to Box 17. Some areas (such as Paonia, Colorado) do not provide USPS to-your-door delivery, so you may need two addresses: one for the USPS and one for UPS or some other carrier.

Group List

The **Group List** option lets you print a list of the groups you have defined. If you have two printers defined you will be asked to choose the one to use.

Group List only appears if you have defined groups, and does **not** update the times mailed or last mail date.

Envelopes

If you defined two printers on the Preferences/Printers screen you will first be asked on which printer you want to print the envelopes.

Next, you will be given a menu of return addresses to print on the envelopes. Select "None" if you do not want any return address to be printed or use the arrow keys to highlight the one you want and press **<Enter>** to select it.

When printing on a PCL laser printer, any soft fonts you defined (on the Preferences/Printers screen) will be downloaded before printing.

Note: If you are using an impact printer and have set the "Pause"

--

What Mailing List?

field to "yes" then you will be prompted to load each envelope and press **<Enter>** before the data is sent to the printer. All dot matrix printers, with a few rare exceptions, have a sensor switch which detects when the paper has run out. Some dot matrix printers, especially older models, stop printing when the paper moves past the sensor, rather than printing to the bottom of the form. With envelopes this is a problem since the form is very short (typically about 4.5-inches long) and you want to print the return address about 2-inches from the bottom.

If your printer has this problem with single-fed envelopes, one trick you can try is to put a business card or other piece of paper against the sensor so it will print to the bottom of the envelope. This defeats the paper-out sensor, though, so it's up to you to make sure everything is okay.

After all envelope data has been sent to your printer WML will ask if you want to update the Times Mailed and Last Mail Date for the records printed. Answer by pressing the **<Enter>** key for "Yes" or the Esc key for "No." Answering "Yes" will change the Last Mail Date of the selected entries to today's date and the Number of Times Mailed field will be incremented by one.

A laser printer tip -- if the print density is uneven try changing the left or top offsets (on the Preferences/Define Envelopes screen) so all of the return address is on a constant thickness of paper. Laser printers have trouble printing on uneven surfaces. You might also try using a different brand of envelope. As far as national brands go I have found that Meade recycled-fibre "security" envelopes work very well, but the Stuart Hall ones do not (too thick); Nobility recycled envelopes have a flat sealing edge which is perfect for lasers.

During envelope printing you can press Esc to cancel printing.

POSTNET (POSTal Numeric Encoding Technique) bar codes can automatically be printed on envelopes and labels for entries within the U.S. To print bar codes use the Preferences/Laser Labels and Preferences/Continuous Labels screens and select the Bar Codes line (you will see a check mark to the right of the line).

Labels

--

What Mailing List?

If you defined two printers on the Preferences/Printers screen you will first be asked on which printer you want to print the labels.

● For laser labels, you will be asked for the specifications of your label sheet -- the number of labels across and vertical distance between labels. You may also set the starting row & column, in case you have a partially-used sheet of labels. **BE AWARE** that some laser printers may not handle partially used label sheets well - check your printer's manual. It may be possible to ruin an expensive drum if some labels were to come loose.

● For impact printer labels, you will be given the menu of label types from which to choose the one you are using.

Note: During label printing you can press Esc to cancel printing.

You can change the left offset for impact printers on the Preferences/Label Types screen. Some impact printers, such as the NEC P5300, have the paper sensor a few inches from the left margin. If you use a narrow strip of labels, such as the common 3.5 x 15/16 labels, the printer will not "see" the labels and will, therefore, not print.

This is where the left offset comes in handy. You can set a left offset of, say, 1.5 inches, then load your labels 1.5-inches from the left margin.

WML will print as much of a bar code as will fit on a label. Thus, you may see a 5-, 9-, or 11-digit bar code printed, depending on the entry's zip code and the size of the label.

To prevent wasting expensive laser label sheets, WML stops at the end of the first sheet of labels and waits for input from you so that you may check the printed output for proper alignment.

Phone Book

You can print the phone book on your dot matrix or laser printer. A 12cpi to 17cpi mono-spaced (fixed) font will work best for the phone book, although the entries themselves work quite well with proportional fonts. If you use a proportional font for the titles you will find that the index at the top right of the page "floats." Short of

--

What Mailing List?

figuring out how to do width tables, this was the best I could come up with. So just use Courier 12 or something like that. Experiment to find the best method to print the phone book on your equipment.

The phone book will only include records which have been selected for printing, and does **not** ask to update the Times Mailed and Last Mail Date. Entries without a phone number will just show the name & address (no trailing dots after the name).

Zip/Postal Code Distribution List

Here is a useful report for people who do bulk mailings. It shows each of the zip codes included in the open file's Selected records along with a count of the total number of entries in that zip/postal code. U.S. zip codes are classified by the 5-digit zip even if the entry has a 9-digit zip. When you print your bulk mailing, just bring this report with you to the Post Office. It is my understanding that they will use the report rather than count each envelope bundle by hand.

The Zip/Postal Code Distribution does not update the times mailed or last mail date since it does not print any entries.

DATA ENTRY

This menu lets you enter data into a mailing list or define groups and abbreviations.

Names

This is the main data entry screen of WML since it is where you enter and change your mailing list information. You can only use this function when you have a mailing list file opened for use. When you choose Names a window will open which has room for all of the information for a single entry. If the open file has any entries the window will be filled with the first entry on file. If the file is empty, a blank form will be displayed.

As you move through a mailing list file, a file position indicator on the right side of the screen will change to show you the displayed record's position in the file. When you are entering a new record the indicator turns yellow (or bright white on a monochrome monitor) and is positioned at the bottom.

--

What Mailing List?

<u>Special keys and key combinations</u>

While on the Names screen there are several special keys (such as **PgDn**) and key combinations (such as **^PgDn**) shown at the bottom of the screen.

PgDn   Move forward (down) through the file. If you press **PgDn** on the last record on file, What Mailing List? will beep.

PgUp   Move backward (up) through the file. If you press **PgUp** on the first record on file, What Mailing List? will beep.

^PgDn "Control-PageDown" — hold down the key marked **Ctrl** and press the **PgDn** key. This tells WML to begin adding new records.

^Home "Control-Home" — moves to the first entry on file. Hold down the **Ctrl** key then press the **Home** key.

^End   "Control-End" — moves to the last entry on file. Hold down the **Ctrl** key then press the **End** key.

<u>Function keys (F-keys)</u>

On the bottom of the screen you will see several function keys defined. Function keys are labelled "F1" through "F10" along the left side of your keyboard, or "F1" through "F12" along the top of your keyboard.

Some fields on the Names screen have different function key definitions than others. For example, pressing F1 while on the City field brings up a list of city names for the entry's zip/postal code, while on the State/Prov field it brings up a list of US States and Canadian Provinces, and on all other fields it opens a help window, giving information about the current field.

<u>Alt key combinations</u>

On the right-hand side of the window you will notice four toggles: Delete, Bad, Omit, and Select. The first letter of each option is highlighted to indicate the Alt-key combination to use.

Example: To toggle the delete flag hold down the <Alt> key (like you would the <Shift> key) and press the letter "D".

<u>Using filters</u>

--

What Mailing List?

A filter works just like its name implies: it allows some things to "get through" while others are "blocked." WML has these filters: Selected, Deleted, Valid, and Included. One or more filters may be set at once. If a filter is selected then only records which match the criteria at the time the filter is created will be displayed; all others will not appear on the screen.

When entries within a filtered set are changed, those records remain within the filtered set of records and WML displays the "Filter" message (at the bottom right of the screen) in low intensity to indicate a change has taken place. To illustrate, if you have the filter set to show you only those records which are "Selected" for printing, then you go to the Names screen and clear the Select flag for a record, that record no longer "belongs" in the filtered set. However, WML leaves this entry in the filtered set so you can review the changes you have made to the records which were originally filtered. It would be more difficult to manipulate the entries in a filtered set if they disappeared once you made a change which affected their status. For example, if you are reviewing entries Selected for printing and every time you change the Select status of an entry it disappears from the list you wouldn't be able to see the ones you had decided not to print.

If you make changes to a filtered set of entries then want WML to show an accurate representation of the filter again, just turn the filter setting OFF then ON again.

As you use the PgUp and PgDn keys the display will jump to the next or previous entry within the filtered set of entries. The **F2** (Find) key will display only those selections included in the filter.

If you **want** to reset the filtered list after changing many records, just go to the Index menu and turn the filter off and back on.

Getting help (F1/Help)

When you see the "F1/Help" message at the bottom left of your screen if means there is context-sensitive help available for the field on which the cursor is sitting. Whether or not the message is displayed you can press the "F1" key for help. If there is no specific help for the item you are on you will get the Help Index.

--

What Mailing List?

In the State/Province field pressing F1 brings up a list of U.S. State and Canadian Province names from which you may browse and select one. The abbreviation for the selected State or Province will be placed in the record.

Locating an entry (F2/Find)

Use this function key to navigate through your mailing list. F2/Find opens a window showing all of the entries on file, one line per entry. You can browse through the list to jump directly to the entry you want.

You will notice new function keys at the bottom of the screen while the Find function is active. You can press a letter or number to go directly to the index-key entry beginning with that letter or number (if you are using the Zip index press a "9" to jump to the first entry with a "9" zip code; if you are using the Company Name index you could press "K" to jump to the first company beginning with "K")[9]. Use the arrow and PgUp/PgDn/Home/End keys to move around the list. Press **<Enter>** to use the entry which is highlighted.

Grouping entries together (F3/Group)

F3 opens a window showing all of the groups defined with arrows next to ones to which this record belongs. You define groups by using the Data Entry/Groups screen (defined below). Basically, just highlight a group and press **<Enter>**; the arrow will appear and disappear (toggle) next to it — an arrow means that the entry belongs to this group.

When you press the **F3**/Group key a window appears showing the groups defined. Inside the window all of the group descriptions for this mailing list file are displayed (up to 255 groups). You can move through the list using the up/down arrow keys, the PgUp/PgDn keys, or by pressing the first letter of the group description you wish to find. When a group is highlighted, press **<Enter>** to select it or clear the

----

[9]The index is determined by the setting of the Index menu. If the index is set to Address, then the entries will be sorted by whatever is in the first address line — starting with blanks, then numbers, then letters. The current index is displayed on the status line at the bottom of the screen.

--

What Mailing List?

selection. Selected groups have an arrow to the left of them. When a group is Selected for an entry, it means that this person or business is a part of that group. For example, if you have a group called "Christmas List" you can Select this group for all people you want to be on your Christmas list.

Adding new records

When you first use the Names screen on a new (empty) file, WML will automatically place you in Add mode. Once the file has information, however, you are initially placed in Edit mode (i.e., existing information is displayed for you to view and/or change).

To add a new record to the file just press **^PgDn** (hold down the *Ctrl* key then press the *PgDn* key). This places you in Add mode. You will see a blank data entry form and the file position indicator will go to the bottom and turn yellow (or bright white on a monochrome monitor).

While adding new records What Mailing List? checks for duplicate names and addresses. If you have duplicate checking enabled (on the Preferences menu) you will see an information window telling you about any duplicates and asking permission to continue. An entry must contain something unique in personal and company name. You can't enter two records with the same personal names and company name. The only time I can think that you might need to enter a duplicate is if the same person & company has two offices. I may figure out a way around this soon...

When you are finished entering new addresses you can change modes in one of three ways:

1.   Press ESC on a **blank form** to return to the menu (if you press ESC and have changed any information on the screen you will be given a message and an opportunity to save it -- don't worry)
2.   Press PgUp to move "up" to the existing records in the file (i.e., switch to "change" mode)
3.   Press F2 (Find) to locate an existing record

To abandon new information (i.e., if you have started entering something on the screen and decide you don't want to save it), press the **Esc** key *before* you finish the screen.

--

What Mailing List?

<u>Changing existing records</u>

While an existing record is displayed you can change information, mark it for deletion, exclude it from being printed, or mark it as being a bad address.

You can use your mouse to go to the field you want to change or use the arrow keys to move around. After you have made changes just press F7 (Save), or press Esc (Cancel) to abandon any changes you made.

<u>Using the Delete/Omit/Bad Address/Select flags</u>

On the right side of the Names data entry window you will notice four lines which have square brackets [ ] to the left of them. These are called *flags* (since they flag a condition) or *toggles* (since they act like toggle switches, being turned on and off). If there is a check-mark (√) inside the brackets then this item is active/on, otherwise it is not. For example, if a check-mark is next to the "Delete" flag then the record is marked for deletion and will be removed from the file the next time it is Packed.

You can set the toggles either with a mouse or the keyboard.
* To use a mouse just place the mouse cursor anywhere on the item you want to change and press the left button twice (once to move to that spot on the screen, the second time to toggle it). The check-mark will turn on and off as you click on the option.
* To use the keyboard just hold down the Alt key and press the highlighted letter of the flag you wish to toggle (e.g., Press Alt-D to toggle the Delete flag).

The **Delete** toggle indicates whether a record is to be removed from the file the next time the File/Pack option is used. The **Bad Address** toggle indicates that the entry is a bad address and should not be printed. Likewise, **Omit from Mailings** indicates an entry which should not be included in print-outs (perhaps a customer who gives you bad checks, so you don't want to waste postage on him). Records marked Bad or Omit cannot be Selected for printing. The **Select** flag indicates whether the entry is selected for printing. Only those entries which are selected for printing will print.

--

What Mailing List?

Smart Zip is a feature which automatically enters the City and/or State/Province for a given zip code or postal code. The State or Province will always be filled in for you. If the exact zip/postal code is on file[10] the city will also be filled in. If the city is not on file you will be asked to enter it; the next time you type that zip/postal code the city and state/province will be filled in automatically.

Some areas of the U.S. have more than one city served by a post office. For example, my post office (81428) serves three towns (Paonia, Bowie, and Somerset). If a zip code has more than one city a window will pop open after you enter the zip code in which all the available cities are listed. Use the up and down arrow keys to highlight the one you want and press ENTER to select it.

Macros & Key Words

Some mailing list packages use function key (F-key) macros to save you typing and let you define "key words" for entries. This is a very handy feature, but it limits you to the number of function keys on your keyboard. *What Mailing List?* provides the same functionality but in a slightly different and more flexible way.

The use of macros can be simulated using WML's Abbreviations (described below). A simple 1-5 letter abbreviation can expand to whatever you need. For example, you can define an abbreviation "POB" which expands to the full text, "P.O. Box" or even "Post Office Box."

Note: Abbreviations are used on the address and comments fields.

"Key words" are usually one or more short fields in which you can put short key words (like "PRO" for "Prospects", "XMAS" for "Christmas List", etc.). WML gives you two flexible ways of accomplishing this same goal without cluttering the screen with extra fields:

1. Define group names into which your entries fit (such as "Service companies," "Christmas list," etc.). While entering a new name or viewing an existing entry just press the F3 key to pop-up the

---

[10]For U.S. addresses only the first 5 digits of the zip code are used to identify the City and State.

--

What Mailing List?

Groups window. An entry can belong to none or as many as 20 groups. When you want to print your Christmas list just use Print/Select/Query (under the "File" menu, described above): Under the "Groups" menu choose the "Select" option. You will see the familiar pop-up window showing all group definitions. Select as many groups as you want then press F7. All entries in those group(s) are now selected to print.

2. Place key words or phrases in the comment lines. Let's say you had a customer list and in the comment lines you liked to keep track of which computer equipment your clients' own. You might put things like XT, AT, 386, Laser, Tape, VGA, DTP, etc. in your comments. When you want to mail a notice to all of your desktop publishing clients ("DTP" people), just use Print/Select/Query (under the "File" menu): Under the "Phrase" menu choose the "Select by phrase in comment" option; enter the key "DTP" and press **<Enter>**. All entries with "DTP" somewhere in the comments are now selected to print.

Groups

<u>What are groups?</u>

WML's Groups feature lets you organize your entries in ways which are sensible to you, rather than using short & cryptic codes. You may define and change up to 255 group descriptions. Grouping entries together makes it easy to select just the people you want for mailings.

For example, in your business you may want to distinguish people by whether they are current customers or prospects, or whether they purchased Product A, Product B, or Service C. For example, John Jones and Arthur Smith have service contracts with you; Acme Drywall and Frank Smith purchased Product A from you. If you want to send a mailing to all people who have service contracts, you might ask WML to Select for Printing those entries which belong to group "Service Contact".

Other examples of common group types are business types (automotive, general retail, attorney, etc.), and region definitions (northwest, west, southwest, etc.).

Note: Groups are an **optional** part of each record. An entry may belong to no groups at all, or it may belong to a maximum of 20 groups.

--

What Mailing List?

<u>Defining or changing groups</u>

Using the Data Entry/Groups screen is easy: Use the Up and Down Arrows to highlight an existing group definition then press the **<Enter>** key to change the text (e.g., you may have misspelled a word and want to correct it or you may find a better way to describe a certain group). Press the **Ins** (Insert) key to add a new group definition to the list. Press the **Del** (Delete) key to delete (erase) a group definition.

Note: When you include an entry in a group WML remembers the record number of the group (rather than the descriptive text).
>   *   If you change the description of a group, all entries in all of your mailing lists will still belong to that group.
>   *   If you delete a group, any entries which were part of that group will remember the record number and then, when you define a new group which uses that record number, entries will be included in that group. For example, if you have a "Christmas List" group and you delete it then add a new group called "Black List", all of your "Christmas List" entries will now belong to the "Black List" group. The reason for this is that it could be a very slow process to have WML search through every mailing list file to remove a group codes from all files -- if you had many large mailing lists it could take minutes or hours to delete a group code. A way around this problem is to open each file and use the **F**ile/re-**I**ndex option - this will remove any invalid group references.

Abbreviations (Macros)

This handy feature lets you define abbreviations to be used in entering your data. This is the same concept as a macro. Abbreviations will be used on the address, city, and comment lines of entries.

Use Ins/Del to insert and delete abbreviations, or use the Up/Down arrows to highlight and change existing abbreviations.

An abbreviation entry consists of an abbreviation and the full text for the abbreviation. For example, an abbreviation might be "LA" and the full text "Los Angeles." Any time you put "LA" on the city, first address line, or any of the comment lines it will be expanded to say "Los Angeles."

--

What Mailing List?

INDICES & FILTERS: CONTROLLING THE SORTING SEQUENCE AND VIEWING OF ENTRIES

This menu lets you change the order in which the entries in your mailing list are displayed and printed. There are four indexing options and four filter options from which to choose:

1.   Name index - sorts entries by Surname plus First Name plus Company Name.
2.   Company Name index - sorts entries by Company Name plus Surname plus First Name.
3.   Address index - sorts entries by the first address line plus Zip/Postal code plus Surname plus First Name plus Company Name.
4.   Zip/Postal code index - sorts entries by zip/postal code plus Surname plus First Name plus Company Name.

5.   Selected entries filter. When activated (a dot appears to the left), only entries which are selected for printing will be displayed. To state the reverse, any records which are not selected for printing will seem to be gone -- they will not show up on the screen nor on the F2 (Find) window.
6.   Deleted entries filter. When activated (a dot appears to the left), only records which are marked for deletion will show up on the Names data entry screen, including the F2 (Find) window.
7.   Valid Addresses filter. When activated (a dot appears to the left), only records which have a complete address will show up on the Names data entry screen, including the F2 (Find) window.
8.   Included entries filter. When activated (a dot appears to the left), only records which can be included in mailings (i.e., neither the Bad Address nor Exclude From Mailings flags are set) will show up on the Names data entry screen, including the F2 (Find) window.

Changing the Index

The active index has a dot to the left of it. To select a different index press the first letter of the index you would like to use or highlight it using the arrow keys then press ENTER. Only one index can be active at a time.

When you select an index it immediately becomes active; there is no need to re-index your files or perform any other process. You can instantly switch between the indices because WML maintains all four index files simultaneously.

--

What Mailing List?

Filters

A filter is a way of limiting what you see, just like a camera filter. This makes it easier to review certain entries, especially in very large mailing lists.

<u>Setting a filter</u>

Let's say you selected all records in Group A for printing and then wanted to browse that list, eliminating a few here and there to reach a goal of 75 mailings. Just use the Index menu to set the "Selected filter" ON (a dot appears to the left when it is active). You will see a bar graph as the file is filtered (on smaller files it may fly by so quickly you'll barely know it was there). Then when you go to the Data Entry/Names screen you will see the first record on file which is selected for printing (which may not necessarily be the first actual record on file).

Pressing the PgUp and PgDn keys will move you around in the filtered list. If you press the F2 (Find) key, the window will contain only the filtered list. It may seem as if the other records are gone, but a look at the status line at bottom of the screen will tell you that the number of records in your file has not changed.

<u>Clearing a filter</u>

To clear a filter just select it again from the Index/Filter menu. Filters are toggles — select once to turn ON, again to turn OFF, again to turn ON, etc.

PREFERENCES

The Preferences menu contains options which help you customize the operation of WML and set necessary parameters, such as the type(s) of printer(s) you have. Preferences are in two groupings on the menu, separated by a horizontal line. The upper options are screens; the bottom two options are toggles (i.e., they are either "on" or "off"). A dot next to any of the bottom three toggles indicates that it is "on."

Please check each Preferences screen before making full use of WML,

--

What Mailing List?

otherwise something might seem wrong with the software whereas it is due to the set of conditions under which WML is operating.

Setting Your Return Addresses

You can set up to two return addresses which you would like to print on laser envelopes. Each address may contain up to five lines and can include punctuation - even quotation marks and commas.

When you are finished with this screen you can click on "Ok" to save the information and exit, "Cancel" to ignore any changes and exit, or use the keyboard keys F7 to save or Esc to cancel.

Setting Envelope Size

I expect that most folks, like me, tend to use the same kind of envelope time and again, and it's probably a #10 "business" envelope. So I decided to keep this screen simple and just have a single definition for an envelope which can be changed from time to time, if necessary.

There are just three numbers to fill in: The width of the envelope (left to right), the length (top to bottom), and the left margin for the return address. Enter fractions of an inch as decimal figures (e.g., 1/2 is .5, 1/8 is .125, etc.). The left margin adjustment can be negative or positive. A negative number will move the return address to the left, a positive number will move it to the right.

Selecting Continuous Label Types (for impact/dot matrix printers)

WML is pre-configured for a few common label types, such as the ever-popular 1-across 3½-inch by 15/16-inch labels which are commonly sold in boxes of 5,000. There are several undefined label types and you can change the pre-defined types to whatever you need.

First you will see the menu of label choices. Highlight the one you want to change and press **<Enter>**. A window will open showing the name of the label and all of the measurements. Type a short name (such as "Mailing", "Shipping", "Disk", etc.) to indicate the type of label. Enter the width of the actual label (i.e., how much room there is upon which to print), the vertical distance from the top of one label to the top of the next, the horizontal distance from the left side of one label to the left side of the next,

--

What Mailing List?

and the number of labels across.

You can use the Up and Down Arrow keys to move between lines, or point and click with a mouse. When you are finished click on "Ok" to save or "Cancel" to abandon any changes, or use the keyboard keys **F7** to Save or **Esc** to cancel.

Other Settings

Mailing to various countries (Country setting)

WML has been designed to validate data differently for U.S., Canadian, and other (International) addresses. By using the proper country setting you will have the following abilities and features:

♦ The "U.S.A Only" setting will only allow numerical zip codes in the format #####-######, telephone numbers in the format (###) ###-####, dates in the format MM/DD/YYYY, and state two-letter abbreviations. If you enter a full State name (properly spelled, of course) WML will find its abbreviation for you.

♦ The "Canada Only" setting allows postal codes only in the format A#A #A# (where A is a letter and # is a number), telephone numbers as (###) ###-####, dates in the format DD-MM-YYYY, and province abbreviations. If you enter a full province name WML will find its abbreviation for you.

♦ The "U.S.A and Canada" and "Canada and U.S.A." settings accept data in either of the formats mentioned above. Dates are presented in the format "## AAA ####". For example, "17 Sep 1992".

♦ The "International" setting does the least "work" for you: it does not format zip codes or telephone numbers and does not look up state/province abbreviations. Everything you enter is treated as literal information. Dates are displayed in yyyy-mm-dd format.

Directory display format

Some of the options under the File menu, such as Open and Erase, display files on your disk. You can choose one of three ways to display these files:

--

What Mailing List?

    1.   The DOS file name followed by the size, date, and description
    2.   The DOS file name only
    3.   The description (long name) followed by the DOS file name, size, and date.

WML sorts the files from left to right, so format #1 and #2 will be in the same order, but #3 will be sorted according to the descriptions of each file.

Alert tone

When some type of error or warning message is displayed on the screen, you reach the end of a field, press a wrong letter in a menu, etc., WML can alert you with one of three sounds or you may select "No sound" for silent operation.

Automatic 11-digit zip

If this feature is enabled then WML will figure out the extended zip code for any address which has a 9-digit zip. According to the USPS this is normally accurate but there may be exceptions. When an envelope is pre-bar-coded it seems to me that it goes coast-to-coast a day faster. If you are doing ordinary first class mailings having a bad bar code would take away that one day advantage and maybe even add a day for them to correct it. If you are doing a bulk mailing, an improper bar code is grounds for trash-canning your mail - you'll never know about it (so you can't correct the mistake), but it isn't otherwise a problem.

Of course, it is best if your mailing list is entirely accurate. This is almost entirely impossible with large lists, but you can get closer to that goal using the post office and third-party vendors who can correct your lists and provide the full 11-digit zip. Ask your postmaster for information about submitting a disk for free updating by the post office.

The Post Office will verify a given mailing list file only once - after that you will have to go to the C.A.S. who provide the service for a fee. If your mailing list consists of local addresses, the Post Office's one-time free service will probably be all you'll ever need. If you get your list verified then a year later you go after a new market and

What Mailing List?

create a new list, this new list is eligible for the PO's free one-time service. I'm really impressed that such an excellent service is free of charge and that it is beneficial to all parties.

Incomplete addresses

The setting of this option determines whether incomplete addresses will be printed. An incomplete address is one which is missing the street, city, state/province, or zip/postal code.

If this field is set to "Print" then all Selected entries will print. If set to "Don't print" then Selected entries which have incomplete address information will not be printed.

Import duplicate rule

This field determines how duplicate entries will be handled when importing from another file. There are four settings for this field: Update, Add, Ignore, and Ask Each Time. Whether an entry is considered a duplicate depends on the duplicate checking options which are activated on the Index menu (i.e., if Duplicate Name Checking is active then WML will check for a duplicate personal name, etc.).

Setting this option to Update Duplicates will cause WML to search for duplicate entries and, if found, the information will be replaced with that from the import file. If a duplicate entry is not found, the record will be added to the WML file.

Setting this option to Add Duplicates will cause WML to add every record from the import file, not checking for duplicates. The Ignore Duplicates setting causes WML to search for a duplicate entry and, if found, that record is not imported (i.e., the original is left as is).

If you set this option to Ask Each Time a window will pop open for every duplicate entry encountered, showing you the entry in the WML file and asking whether you wish to update, add, or ignore the imported record, or cancel the importing process entirely.

Import technique

This setting determines how much WML will try to assist you

--

What Mailing List?

when importing a file which does not contain the same name fields as WML. For example, you may have a file which contains a name field in which the first name and surname are grouped together. For the purpose of indexing it is much more convenient for WML to have each component of a person's name in a separate field, otherwise the entries will be sorted by each person's first name. Likewise, you may have a file which contains a single Name field which may contain a company name or a personal name. It would save a tremendous amount of re-entering if WML could automatically adapt imported data, and that is precisely what this setting is for.

When set to "Standard", WML will import fields as you define them, without trying to figure anything out. When set to "Smart Name" WML will split a personal name into the first name and surname components when necessary. Setting this option to "Smart Name > Company" will cause WML to split the personal name components and also to check for the possibility of a company name being in the personal name field. It does this by checking for certain key characters - such as "Inc.", "Corporation", or an ampersand (&) - which are unlikely to be part of anyone's personal name. Finally, the "Smart Name <> Company" setting will attempt to move data in either direction: if it seems that a personal name is in the company name field it will be moved, and vice versa.

The more assistance WML attempts to provide, the greater the chance that it will guess incorrectly (for example, interpreting a company name like "Organic Computer Wizardry" to be a personal name). Furthermore, if you are importing a file which only contains company names you would not want WML to attempt to interpret the data any differently.

Keep in mind that these settings only come into play if some fields are missing data. If you are importing a file which contains first name, surname, and company name fields then WML will simply copy the data as it is.

Capitalize city field

The setting of this field determines how city names will be entered from the keyboard on the Data Entry/Names screen. There are three settings: All upper case, Capitalize, and Leave as typed.

--

What Mailing List?

"All upper case" will accept only upper case letters for the city name. "Capitalize" will capitalize each word of the city name, regardless of how you enter it (e.g., "LOS ANGELES" will change to "Los Angeles" and "McLean city" will change to "Mclean City"). "Leave as typed" will leave the name as you enter it.

Adhere to USPS guidelines

This setting determines whether WML will force compliance with U.S. Postal Service standards or will allow a more traditional printing of address information. The USPS uses computers with optical character recognition (OCR) to scan mail in an attempt to mechanically sort it (that is, without human intervention). For best accuracy they prefer that the address information be printed in all UPPER CASE letters without any punctuation.

If you set this field to "**Enabled**" all U.S. addresses will be printed in UPPER CASE with symbols and punctuation removed. This setting does not affect the printing of Canadian or International addresses.

Default 3rd phone description

Every entry has room for three phone numbers: a main number (typically a business/work phone), a FAX number, and a third, "other" number. The description of the third phone number may be set differently for each entry. When you add a new entry to a mailing list the description of the third phone number is set to the default description found on this Preferences screen.

Defining Printers

WML can use two printers, a laser and a dot matrix. The laser can be used to print envelopes and laser labels. The dot matrix can be used to print continuous labels. Either printer can be used to print group lists and phone books. Until you define your printer(s) and font(s) there will be a flashing message at the bottom of the screen and you will not be able to use the File/Print option.

The Printer definition window shows the current settings. Use the arrow keys to move around, and press the **F3** key to change anything. For example, to set your dot matrix printer move the cursor to that line then press **F3** and a menu of choices will appear. Highlight your printer (or one

What Mailing List?

compatible with it) and press **<Enter>**. Then move down to the font definition and press F3 again. Highlight your font selection and press **<Enter>**. When you are finished, highlight the "Ok" button and press **<Enter>**. Alternately, you can press **F7** to save the screen and exit.

PCL (laser & deskjet) printer soft fonts

You will need landscape (SFL) fonts for envelopes and portrait (SFP) fonts for everything else. You decide which fonts to use once — on the Preferences/Printers screen — and, from then on, WML automatically uses these choices.

Consider an example: When you set the font for the envelope return address you may choose any of your printer's built-in fonts or a soft font. If you select the first item in the font list, "Select a soft font," you will first be asked for the drive and/or path containing the files. The last directory you used will be the default.

After you enter a correct path you will be shown a list of the landscape soft font files (*.SFL) in that directory. Use the arrow keys and PgUp/PgDn keys to move around, highlight the one you want, and press **<Enter>**. The soft font file name will now be shown on the screen.

Scalable fonts

A scalable font is a single font (e.g., CG Times, Helvetica, etc.) which can be printed in practically any size. I have yet to see how a scalable *soft* font works and I have no idea how one would work with WML (try it and see) (then tell me!).

Printers like the H-P LaserJet III and IV have scalable fonts built in. This means you can pick a font, such as Univers, and print in practically any size you want.

When you select a scalable font WML will prompt you for the pitch (cpi) or the point size, depending on whether it is a fixed-pitch or proportionally-spaced font. In general numbers between 8 and 14 work best. My favourite font for both my laser and dot matrix is a Helvetica-type (sans serif) font at 12cpi or 12 points.

Post Office considerations

--

What Mailing List?

The USPS uses OCR (optical code recognition) equipment to automatically read machine-printed envelopes. When it works properly it can speed your mail through faster and on bulk mailings it saves money. For laser printers, a font size of 8 to 18 points must be used; 10 to 12 points is recommended. It is also recommended that you use Sans Serif fonts such as Helvetica, Swiss, or Univers (a sans-serif soft font is provided with the Registered Edition of WML). On dot matrix printers use a 10cpi or 12cpi font.

Duplicate Checking

WML can check for duplicate personal names, company names, and/or addresses while you are entering information. Just select any or all of these flags - a dot to the left of the item means that it is active. You can toggle them on and off as desired; the settings will be saved just as your Preferences settings are.

Duplicate checking helps avoid duplicate entries which have different personal names or ones which have identical addresses but a different name. Duplicate checking also applies when you are importing a file into WML - whichever items are active will be tested while importing.

Because WML keeps all index files active simultaneously, performing a duplicate check is very fast. On most computers you will not see any difference in speed regardless of the duplicate checking options which are active. On older 8088 and 8086 computers or any computer which is running WML from floppy disk (rather than a hard disk) duplicate checking can slow down some operations (especially importing).

* Personal name checks first name & surname
* Company name checks the company name field
* Address checks zip/postal code plus address line #1

HELP

The Help menu contains information screens and print-outs. This menu is divided into three sections:

1. The on-line manual (Index)
2. Information about how WML is running on your computer

--

What Mailing List?

3. Registration, site license, and update order forms

Choosing the **Index** option will bring up the table of contents for WML's help system. You may then use the arrow keys to highlight a choice and press ENTER to view the information on the screen. This is the same information which is displayed when you press the F1 (Help) key on data entry screens, plus there is additional information which is only available from this menu.

The **About** option gives you the current version number, copyright information, and my address & phone number.

The **Files & Memory** option tells you how about your computer's free memory (RAM and disk space) and shows statistics about the opened mail list file (if any), group file, abbreviation file, and zip/postal code file.

The **Settings** option shows a summary of all your preferences settings. This gives you a way to view these settings without having to access each Preferences screen.

The lower three options print various order forms. **Order Form** prints an order form for registering WML. **Site License** prints a site license form which shows discounted pricing if you wish to use more than one copy of WML at a single location. **Update/Sampler Form** prints a form to use when you want to order an update disk to the latest version of WML - you need **not** be registered to order an update disk. If you have a version of WML which is several months old please feel free to order the latest version for evaluation.

PROBLEMS AND ERROR MESSAGES

WML tries to handle most problems without any attention from you, however, there are times when an error happens which WML is unable to handle. There are three types of errors which you may experience:

1.   Condition error - this is a problem due to an operating condition. Examples of this type of error are if a printer is off-line when you try to print, if duplicate checking is turned "on" and a duplicate entry is found, or if a file is locked by another user on a network. WML will report the condition in a window and, once you press ENTER or click the "Ok" button WML will continue operating.

--

What Mailing List?

2.   File error - these problems cause an error screen to appear which suggests a possible solution to the problem and, if you can't fix it, my address and phone number is shown so you can contact me. A common reason for this error is that an index file contains a bad entry (perhaps due to a power outage). The most common solution to these problems is to re-index your files (**F**ile/re-**I**ndex).

3.   Programme error - this is a mistake of mine and will cause the programme to abruptly end with a one-line error message and a message like "Press any key to return to system." Report these errors to me right away, please. Just like other large software packages, WML contains hundreds of thousands of instructions and the bigger it gets the more likely it is that a "bug" will creep in there somewhere. These errors get top priority and are usually fixed and a new version released within a day.

If anything happens that you don't understand, or if you can't get WML to do what you want, I would appreciate knowing about this so I can fix the software or update the documentation as necessary.

Most software of any significance has "bugs" which are errors of logic in the programme. PC-DOS, MS-DOS, and Windows all have "bugs" which can cause problems. As WML goes through its evolution, bugs are removed; as new features are added new bugs sometimes find their way into the software. I place great emphasis on keeping data safe and know of no person who has ever lost data due to a problem in WML. However, problems with DOS or computer equipment may cause data to be lost in rare circumstances.

If any of your data seems to be missing exit to PC-DOS (or MS-DOS) and type "CHKDSK d: /F" (without the quotation marks and replacing "d:" with the drive on which you store your WML files, such as "C:"). If you are using MS-DOS version 6 or later, use the command "SCANDISK d:" (without the quotation marks and replacing "d:" with the drive on which you store your WML files) since it performs a more thorough test. These commands will check your disk for any problems pertaining to the files on them. The SCANDISK utility can also perform a surface scan which tests the entire disk to be sure all areas of it are usable.

If CHKDSK or SCANDISK find any errors they will be reported to you and you will be asked for input on correcting the errors. CHKDSK only knows how to clear any errors and turn "orphan" data into new files. By "orphan" data I mean data which is on your hard disk but for which DOS has lost the

--

What Mailing List?

information about the file to which it belongs. Normally this data is not usable or requires tremendous effort to make it usable again. I suggest you do **not** create files from this data unless you have lost a tremendous amount of data which would be very difficult to re-enter or the data is irreplaceable. Beyond this point you will require the help of someone who knows how to recover damaged files. Contact me if you cannot find a local consultant to perform this service for you.

SCANDISK is able to identify bad sections of your disk and attempt to move data to safe areas. If the area is badly damaged the attempt to move data may not be entirely successful. If SCANDISK tells you it has found problems on your disk I suggest you let it fix them. If your data is irreplaceable or would take a tremendous amount of effort to re-enter, then I recommend that you get the help of a consultant. At the very least make a complete back-up copy of your data files (or the entire hard disk) so that you can attempt to restore information in case files are so badly damaged that information becomes lost.

In most cases you will find that no data is missing and all you need to do is re-index your files for the "missing" entries to re-appear. To re-build the index files just select the Re-index option on the File menu.

FILES WHICH MAKE UP THE PACKAGE

What Mailing List? is made up of the following files:

WML.EXE   The executable file
WML.HLP   The help file
WML.TXT   * The ASCII text file of this document
WML.WP   * The WordPerfect file of this document (so you can format it for your printer)
WML.CO   Smart Import file containing key phrases which indicate an entry is a company name rather than a personal name
WML.MSG   English message file (other languages soon)
POSTAL.DAT   U.S. and Canadian zip/postal code ranges file
PRINTER.DAT   Printer definition file
DDLABEL.WID * Import definition for Dr. Data Label files
READ.ME   * A text file of late-breaking news. Read this first.
ORDER.FRM   Order form for all of my software
VENDOR.DOC   * Information file for BBS Sysops & Shareware distributors/disk vendors

--

What Mailing List?

SYSOP.DOC   * Special deals for BBS sysops & co-sysops

These are the files which are provided with the unregistered package. Files marked with an asterisk (*) are not required to run WML so they may be erased if disk space is a premium (such as if you are using WML on a floppy disk system).

When you run WML for the first time it will create the following files in the same directory as the EXE programme file:

CONFIG.WDT   Your preferences and certain historical information (such as last back-up date)
ABBREVS.WDT   Abbreviations you define
ABBREVS.IX   Index for abbreviations
GROUPS.WDT   Groups you define
GROUPS.IX   Index for groups
MESSAGES.WDT   Envelope & label message file
MESSAGES.IX   Messages index

The **Registered Edition** contains extra files which are for use by the registered owner only. So if you share WML with friends and BBSs, please **ERASE** these Registered Edition files from the copies you share:

*.SFP   Portrait PCL soft fonts
*.SFL   Landscape PCL soft fonts
CONFIG.WDT   Registration key & configuration info

--

What Mailing List?

INDEX

--

What Mailing List?

--

What Mailing List?

--