

Sheet1

TITLE,C,15 L01,C,70

technology 1 Dear MDTS Owner:

technology 2 I have recently had two questions about the internal operation of the

multiple files Version 4 of the Member and Donation Tracking System is now available!

L02,C,70

MDTS program - which I will answer here.

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L03,C,70

Several customers have asked about the technology of MDTS, including

You will now have the capability of having "upto" 26 (A-thru-Z) "SETS"

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L04,C,70

capacity, sorting processes, and so on. Here is some information.
The first question concerns the way in which MDTS indexes data, in
of data and code files in your MDTS directory.

L05,C,70

this case the way in which the Name & Number report prints data when

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L06,C,70

MDTS is derived from dBASE III+ (compiled by Clipper '87) and thus has the Number ordering is selected. The particular user did not like a This means that you will be able to keep several year's worth of

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L07,C,70

a data capacity of ONE BILLION records - to the limits of a hard disk.
report that had the numbers in what that user thought was the wrong
information "current" for immediate updates or reports (you may now

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L08,C,70

As a "rough estimate" you will need between TWO and FIVE megabytes of order. If you enter "member numbers" that are actual numbers, say of print a donation report in April for that member who always loses

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L09,C,70

hard disk space for every 1,000 members. The exact space required by 3 digits each - and if you do not enter each number to be the same reports printed at the end of the year and then panics at tax time).

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L10,C,70

your application will be determined by your particular data mix. This
SIZE number, zero-filling so 1 is entered as 001 - any report that is

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L11,C,70

2-to-5 Meg estimate is based on the sizes of the data files (Members, based on the number index will look "funny" to humans. Of course, the Or, if you are a "service provider" you will be able to keep several

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L12,C,70

Pledges, Giving & Letters) PLUS the sizes of the index files.
thing to remember is that a computer is NOT a human, and it is able to
different sets of data/code files in a single directory for easy

L13,C,70

do ONLY what the designer tells it to do. In this case, conventions recording of information for as many as 26 different organizations.

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L14,C,70

The only sort process, actually a copy in sorted order, is performed in the computer industry (not just MDTs!) say that data sorts/indexes

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L15,C,70

during one of the data deletion steps. (see the manual) This will, will be first by the value of an item, and next by the SIZE of items. As always, this update is only \$10 for registered MDTS customers.

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L16,C,70

of course, require FREE hard disk space equal to the size of the file
This means that 1 is smaller than 2, and 1 is also smaller than 01.

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L17,C,70

you are sorting. If you don't have enough free space (a DOS DIR will
Another example would be to enter last names of AA AB and AC. They
The MDTS source code is still \$55 - requires Clipper '87 or later.

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L18,C,70

show you free space) simply remove marked records with the no sort.
will show on the "browse" screen in just that order. If you change
Remember that source code purchases are for YOUR OWN USE ONLY

L19,C,70

AA to aA, the aA will now drop to the bottom of the browse list. This MAY NOT use the MDTs source code as the basis of a program which

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L20,C,70

All of the reports, and the mailing labels, use data indexing (just as is because the coded value of a is LARGER than the coded value for then sell to other individuals or organizations.

L21,C,70

you use the index of a book) to find and print information. The form
A.

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L22,C,70

letter process, mailing labels, and some reports (see the manual) give
The second question concerned the screen print option, and the fact
You will also be able to copy entire "data sets" -- such as when you

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L23,C,70

you the opportunity to print only selected records. You may now print that it produced a "mess" on screen.

need to keep last year's data available while entering new data.

L24,C,70

a single donation statement for that member who panics at tax time.

L25,C,70

This is no longer true. All screen printing (viewing) has been
By the way - do YOU have any ideas for further program enhancements?

L26,C,70

The MDTS printing process uses the DOS printer calls (this is part of formatted for your easy pre-view of a report.

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L27,C,70

the Clipper compiler) which means that your RAM-based print spooler is

If so, please take the time to send me a letter describing your idea.

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L28,C,70

used if you have one. Some programs bypass DOS and take control o
Of course, printing to the screen is time consuming in that you must

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L29,C,70

the ROM, thus disabling any print spooler you may have installed. Of press the return key to advance to the next page. I do not recommend Remember that custom reports (if possible) are still only \$10 each.

L30,C,70

course, this also means that you are responsible for configuring your
this option if you have very much data to print.

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L31,C,70

AUTOEXEC.BAT file to establish any printer protocols that are needed

Send me a letter (and a sample layout) describing the report that you

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L32,C,70

by your particular mix of hardware and operating system software. All
Remember, if you have Clipper '87 and want to customize for yourself,
need. I will tell you if your report is possible, and you may then

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L33,C,70

MDTS printing is standard text, so this should not be difficult.
the source code for MDTS is sold for \$55 - after you register if you
send me the \$10 for an updated program.

L34,C,70

purchase from a dealer, or immediately if you buy direct from T&C. A

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L35,C,70

Remember that custom reports, or modifications to existing reports,
sale of the source code is for YOUR PERSONAL USE ONLY.

I would like to thank all of you for making MDTS a success.

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L36,C,70

cost \$10 each - IF the new/modified report is possible at all. If you

Vers-1 4-87 first production version of MDTS issued

L37,C,70

need the name and address on the donation statement in a new spot to

1988 ongoing revision to "internalize" reports

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L38,C,70

fit a window envelope, or if you have a need for some data not printed

Vers-2 1-89 data scrolling on screen, more reports

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L39,C,70

in the existing A-to-R reports, send me a letter. Be sure to include
I hope that this helps you understand a little better how MDTs works
1-90 screen preview of "formatted" reports

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L40,C,70

a COMPLETE list of your requirements - and a printed example showing

Vers-3 4-90 expand member file for "skill bank" data

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L41,C,70

the way you want the new/revised report to look.

Write and let me know what you like or don't like about the program.

Vers-4 1-91 expand program for A-thru-Z data/code sets

L42,C,70

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L43,C,70

Above all, keep communicating. I can't know your program needs if you

L44,C,70

don't write and tell me.

L45,C,70

Tom Smith, Tom&Cat Programmer
Tom Smith, Tom&Cat Programmer
Tom Smith, Programmer