The South Bay Mug

MACINTOSH

A Monthly Cupful For South Bay Apple Mac User Group Members, Feb 2007
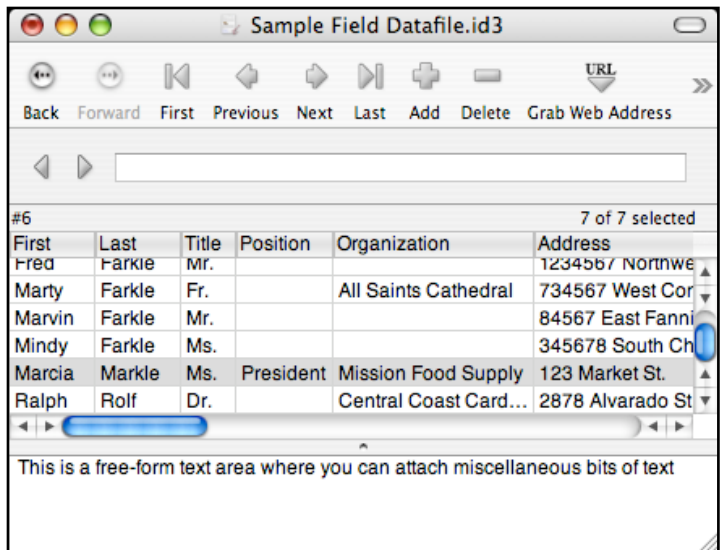
MAChinations

A personal view from Bob

iData 3
A Database for the rest of us

Everyone is familiar with the Rolodex or a box of 3x5 cards for storing information. Each card is a record containing a name and address or a recipe and the collection of cards (records) is a database. The Rolodex is passé since a computer database offers so many advantages such as sorting and searching. Databases can be simple – an address book – or very sophisticated, such as an online catalog. There are many special-purpose database programs that you may not think of as databases — Quicken, MacTracker, recipe and password managers and Apple's Address Book. High-end database managers, such as FileMaker Pro, Panorama and 4th Dimension, are very flexible and programmable but can be intimidating and expensive.
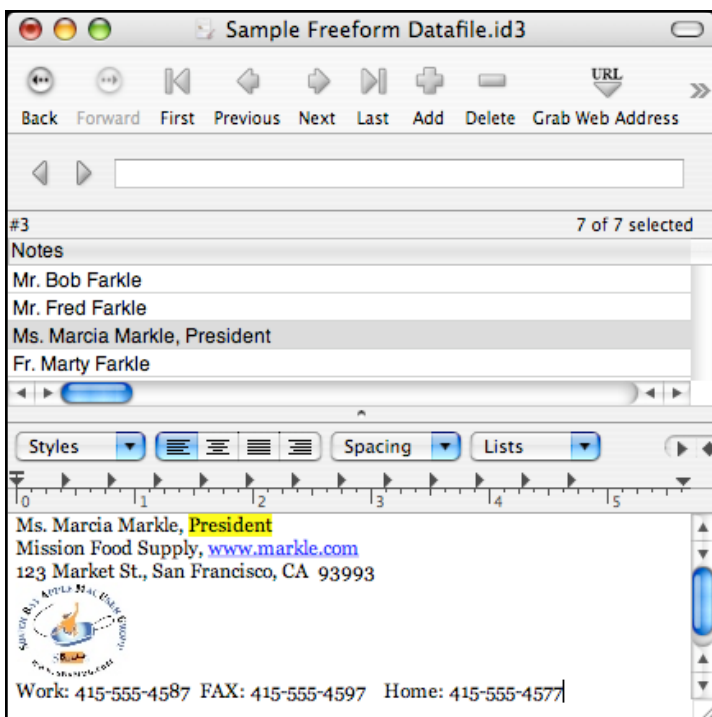
A flexible database manager that I've used for many years is iData, Initially born as QuickDex and then InfoGenie. It's easy to learn and use, yet fast and very

powerful. Records can be Freeform (bottom left), like a Rolodex card, or field-based (above) where data is stored in separate fields, such as name, address and zip code. Create multiple databases for recipes, auto records, medical records, home repairs, CDs, books, jokes, songs, software info, rebates or as a convenient place for miscellaneous bits of information. Both styled text, tabs, hot links and graphics are supported. iData imports address books, emails, bookmarks and text from many programs. It also prints envelopes and labels with many supplied templates or those you design. It's smart enough to detect telephone numbers and will dial the phone (via modem).

Through April 30 SBAMUG members can buy it for $50 using the Coupon code: iD3MUG438
http://www.idata3.com/id3mug.html

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