JFTrans - JFile Translator

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User's Guide

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JFTrans - JFile Translator

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Introduction

JFTrans is a simple to use PC based front end that reads JFile or JFile 4.x PDB files, automatically translates them into a database file in Access format, and then loads the data into a fully editable grid for modification or viewing. **JFTrans** includes these many useful features:

- Popup list data in the PDB file is loaded into a dropdown list in JFTrans so that you can easily select the item you want in the current cell. These popup lists can be easily modified within JFTrans.

- JFTrans provides tools to easily sort, search, filter or replace the data anyway you want.

- JFTrans can seamlessly convert JFile data types to the more efficient Access types, in order to reduce the size of the resulting MDB files, or allow you to do calculations on the Access data that would be impossible within JFile.

- You can modify the field names that are used in the Access database, and JFTrans will translates the two automatically.

- You can create a new Access format file within JFTrans and define the associated JFile data structure at the same time.

- You can create a JFile database from an existing Access database or Excel worksheet and then import the records directly from these external files. The import setup can be saved as a template so that you can repeat the import at any time with a single mouse click.

- Data from your Pilot can be added to a current Access file, or can replace the data entirely.

- Any grid layouts you design to view a specific database, are retained by JFTrans for the next time you load and look at the data. You can also specify the display formats of various data types that are retained on a file by file basis.

- You can easily rebuild and install the JFile PDB file using either the original field names or those used in the Access file. The new PDB can include all records in the database or only those that have been filtered in JFTrans.

- You can also export the data to another PDB file that can be installed at a later time, or sent to someone else.

- You can print the contents of your database. The print engine allows you to preview the report so you can see exactly what you will get on paper.

- A report can be exported to an Adobe Acrobat PDF file or to a Rich Text Format RTF file so that you can send the report to someone else, paste it into another document, or edit the report.

- JFTrans fully supports both JFile 3.x and the newer JFile 4.x and can interact with databases in these different formats seamlessly, or convert them from one format to the other.

JFTrans 2000 is functionally identical to **JFTrans**. It offers exactly the same feature set and operates the same way. The only distinction between the two is that JFTrans 2000 uses the Office / Access 2000 data engine and can therefore read and write MDB files in the newer format.

We are sure you will find **JFTrans** or **JFTrans 2000** to be the fastest, easiest, and most flexible way to manage your JFile databases from the convenience of your PC.

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http://home.ica.net/~shawkins/jftrans.htm

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Some of the documentation for the JFile and JFile 4.x database programs and associated utilities are included in this help file with the full permission of Land-J Technologies.

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JFTrans / JFTrans 2000

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Acknowledgements

I would very much like to thank the following people for their help in making **JFTrans** a much better product than it would have been otherwise.

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Felix Grant for his help beta testing JFTrans 2000, and his constructive feedback and enthusiasm for the product.

Shigeaki Furukawa and **Takashi Kurita** for pushing me to add support for Asian languages and the generous gift of their time to thoroughly test the modifications, and **Hiroyuki Okamoto** for sharing his technical knowledge so freely.

My thanks also to all of those who have written to me to report bugs, and have helped me track down and fix them.

Getting Started

The first time you run **JFTrans**, the Set Backup Directory dialog box appears. Because the Pilot supports multiple users, **JFTrans** needs to know about the BACKUP directory from which you will want to Import PDB files. The path is set to your PILOT or PALM directory when the dialog box opens. Click on the **Browse** button, select the appropriate USERNAME directory and then the BACKUP directory under that. Click **OK** when you are done, and the dialog box will close. The path you have selected is used as a default only, and can be easily changed in Preferences.

If you open Preferences, you will see a number of options which can be changed later as you become more comfortable with **JFTrans**. The default settings should work for most users, with three possible exceptions. The first concerns Multiple User support. If you want to support multiple users, then check off the Support Multiple Users option on the Options Tab of Preferences. Also, go the Palm Pilot Tab and set the Date and Time options to the same formats you currently have selected in the Format page on your Pilot. This is required so that date and time information transferred from JFTrans displays correctly in JFile. If you have set JFTrans to support multiple users, then you should also specify the default user on this page.

If you are running JFTrans 2000, then please review the Access File Formats section **before** you start importing your JFile or JFile 4.x databases.

We suggest that you browse through the Program Elements and Working with Data Grids sections of this manual for information on the user interface. If you are in a hurry, then just click on the Import button, double click on a JFile PDB file, and let **JFTrans** do its thing.

You should acquaint yourself with the various Access data types if they are unfamiliar to you, as this knowledge is fundamental to using **JFTrans** effectively and without error.

If you are familiar with JFTrans but have updated to the newer JFile 4.x release, then please look at the JFile 4.x Considerations topic for some information on 4.x support in **JFTrans**.

As for the rest, play around with **JFTrans** and use the F1 key for context help if you have any questions about the product. **JFTrans** contains ToolTips help for most buttons and controls, which should quickly familiarize you with the commands and options available.

Quick Start

This section provides a quick Overview of the basic procedures used to import and install a JFile database using JFTrans.

Setting Up JFTrans :

Go to the Preferences dialog box on the Options Menu, and select the Directories Tab. Please make sure that the PDB Source Directory setting is set to your Pilot\UserName\Backup directory. The MDB and CSV Directory setting should be set to the \JFTrans\Data directory and the Export directory should be set to \JFTrans\Exprt. If any of these settings are different on your machine, please use the associated **Browse** buttons to find the correct paths.

If you use JFile 3.x instead of JFile 4.x, then also click on the Options Tab and turn on the Default to JFile 3.x option. This will set JFTrans to assume JFile 3.x instead of the default JFile 4.x.

When the directories and the JFile setting are correctly set, click **OK** to save the settings.

Loading Databases from JFile into JFTrans :

Create your databases in JFile on the Palm Pilot, and then HotSync the databases to your PC.

Open JFTrans and click on the Import PDB File button on the toolbar or from the File Menu.

From the Select Format dialog box, click on the JFile format of the PDB database you want to import. If the format you want is already selected, then just press **Enter** or click the **OK** button to continue.

A list of all PDB files will appear, so select the JFile database to import and click **Open**.

JFTrans may then display the Modify Field Types dialog box outlining the Access file data structure it will use based on the JFile database structure. Just click **Accept** to use the defaults.

JFTrans will read the data from the PDB file and display it in a grid, ready for editing.

Installing Databases from JFTrans to JFile :

Open JFTrans and open the database you want to load onto the Pilot.

Click on the Install PDB File button on the toolbar, or this option on the File Menu.

Please make sure that the **JFile Title** is the same as the title of the database within JFile. For example, if the database in JFile is titled 'CD Collection', then enter the same title here if it is not already displayed.

Click **OK** to install the database.

JFTrans will write out a new PDB file and will send it to the Pilot Install tool. The install tool should popup on your screen to confirm that the file will be installed. Just close the Pilot Install tool dialog box.

Exit JFTrans and HotSync your Pilot to transfer the edited database over to the Pilot.

Getting Help

If you cannot find the answer to a question or the solution to a problem in this manual, then please send email :

jftrans@ica.net

If you prefer, you can also write to the address on the Copyright page, but we would very much prefer you to send inquires or comments by email.

We will make every effort to get back to you about the issue you encounter. You can also check out the **JFTrans** website at :

http://home.ica.net/~shawkins/jftrans.htm

for timely information and updates.

Please feel free to send any comments or suggestions about this product that you wish. We cannot guarantee that all requests will find their way into the product, but it is most helpful to know how you would like to integrate **JFTrans** into your work, and if it meets your needs.

Ordering JFTrans
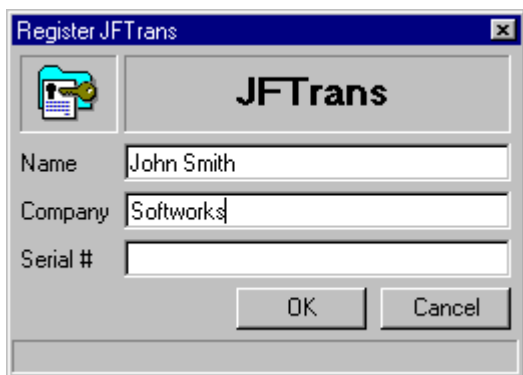
You can order a copy of **JFTrans** or **JFTrans 2000** from PalmGear. Please go to their web site at :

http://www.palmgear.com

The current purchase price is **$24.95** in **US. funds**, which includes free updates for the life of version 1.xx.

Registered users receive a serial number that enables them to remove the time trial limitations of the public release. This serial number will be valid for any 1.xx version of **JFTrans** or **JFTrans 2000**. The product can be registered from the initial installation, or from within **JFTrans** itself.

Register JFTrans

The **Register JFTrans** dialog box provides the means to register a trial version using the serial number provided to you. Just enter the specific name and serial number, **exactly** as they were sent to you when you purchased a license, and click on **OK**. The user name you enter **must** be at least 4 characters long.   If the entries are correct, then a confirmation message will appear, and the day count on the top line of the main screen will disappear.

The splash screen on startup and the **About** box will always display the name of the registered user.

Product Updates

The latest versions of JFTrans and JFTrans 2000 are always available from PalmGear at www.palmgear.com.

In addition, an alternate download site has been setup with Driveway.com, a free internet storage site. The JFTrans section on Driveway is divided into 4 sections, Release Versions, Beta Versions, Documentation and Uploads.

The Release Versions section contains the current release versions of JFTrans and JFTrans 2000.

The Beta Versions section contains the most current beta releases of JFTrans and JFTrans 2000.

The Documentation section contains the latest release of the User Guide in PDF format and the latest help files.

The Uploads section is intended for any user that needs to send large files to tech support and cannot do so via email due their size. This is the only section that allows you to upload files. If you do need to send something, upload it here and refer to the upload in any tech support email.

For your convenience, the JFTrans and JFTrans 2000 installs place links to these four sections in the JFTrans folder.

About JFile

JFile 4 is a fast, efficient, and user friendly database program for the Palm OS Platform. New features include an advanced filtering screen, 3 to 5 times quicker in nearly all functions(!), categorization of databases, printing via PalmPrint, font choices, increased to 50 fields per record, and up to 4000 characters per field, scrollbars for fast navigation, and much more! Included with JFile 4 is a PC based application that can convert Comma Separated Value (.csv) files to and from JFile .pdb format databases.

New Features in JFile 4

- Advanced Filter option for up to 5 filter specifications, with ranges allowed
- Scrollbars in most views for easy database navigation
- More field types including: increment counters, creation and modification date and times, and multiple item popup lists.
- Three to four times speed improvement in most find, filter, and sort operations
- Databases may be grouped into categories for easy selection
- Increased maximum fields to 50 per database
- Larger font choices available for easier viewing
- New read-only view of a record similar to the Address Book
- Printing of databases and records via the PalmPrint application
- Options for easy movement through databases and records with hardware keys mapped to the small onscreen movement arrows.
- Databases respect the normal Palm OS 'Private' setting from the Security Application
- Graphical method for sizing of columns in the Database View
- Creating a duplicate of a database structure
- Deletion of all records that appear in a filter
- 4 digit years standard from the Date Picker
- Compatibility with Launcher type apps to launch a specific database
- Included converter works in both command line, and Windows mode
- Easier editing and viewing of text fields with large amounts of data

The version of JFile 4 included with this package is a **demo** version. It is included here so that you can try out the full functionality of **JFTrans**. For more information on **JFile**, please go to the Land-J Technologies web site at :

http://www.land-j.com

Program Elements

Main Window
Totals Window
Toolbar
About Box

Main Window
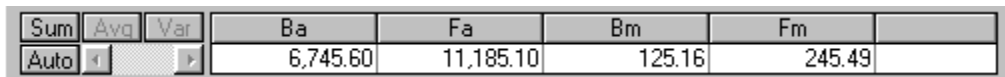
The JFTrans main window, like most Windows 95 applications, consists of a menu and toolbar at the top, a grid area, and a status bar along the bottom of the screen.

The status bar displays the loaded file name, the number of records, an '**S**' indicator if the file is currently sorted, an **'F'** indicator if the file is currently filtered, an **'R'** indicator if the Replace command is previewing affected records, and a blank message area.

JFTrans remembers its screen location and size, and restores these settings on startup. It also remembers the location of the Search, Filter, Replace and Calendar dialog boxes. If you always want to start it maximized, then check the Start Maximized option in Preferences.

Totals Window

The Totals Window is an optional screen element that contains the totals of every numeric field type in the open database. The displayed totals can represent the Sum, Average, or Variance of the records. The function buttons, **Sum**, **Avg**, or **Var**, are displayed in dark gray by default, and the name of the current total type is highlighted in black letters.

This view can be toggled On or Off using the **View Hide Totals** option on the Database Menu.

Toolbar - Single

When you first start JFTrans in Single User mode, various menu options are either disabled or not displayed, and many of the toolbar buttons are disabled (grayed out), as illustrated below.

Once you have opened or imported a file, then the full menu structure and toolbar options become available, as shown below.

From left to right, the buttons are:

Open MDB File
Import PDB File
Create New File

Print MDB File

Save MDB As
Export MDB File
Install PDB File

Edit Popups
Compact MDB File

Sort Records
Search Records
Replace
Filter Records
Delete Records

First Record
Last Record

JFile Settings
Modify Database
Grid Properties

Exit JFTrans

Toolbar - Multiple

When you first start JFTrans in Multiple User mode, various menu options are either disabled or not displayed, and many of the toolbar buttons are disabled (grayed out), as illustrated below.

Once you have opened or imported a file, then the full menu structure and toolbar options become available, as shown below.

From left to right, the buttons are:

Open MDB File
Import PDB File

Print MDB File

Export MDB File
Install PDB File

Edit Popups

Sort Records
Search Records
Replace
Filter Records
Delete Records

First Record
Last Record

Select User

Exit JFTrans

About Box

OK   Close About Box

The About Box displays the current version and build numbers of JFTrans and copyright and license information.

JFTrans Menus

File Menu
Edit Menu
View Menu
Option Menu
Help Menu

File Menu

📁	<u>O</u>pen MDB File...	Ctrl+O
▶📄	<u>I</u>mport PDB File...	Ctrl+I
💾	Save MDB <u>A</u>s...	Ctrl+A
📁	Close MD<u>B</u> File	Ctrl+B
📄▶	<u>E</u>xport MDB File...	Ctrl+E
🖥	I<u>n</u>stall PDB File...	Ctrl+N
📄	Ba<u>t</u>ch Install PDB...	
➕	<u>C</u>ompact MDB File...	Ctrl+M
◀▷	Con<u>v</u>ert PDB File...	Ctrl+K
🖨	<u>P</u>rint MDB File...	
	<u>1</u> d:\..\data\design.mdb	
	<u>2</u> d:\..\data\autopro.mdb	
	<u>3</u> d:\..\data\bout.mdb	
	<u>4</u> d:\..\data\martin.mdb	
	<u>5</u> d:\..\data\software.mdb	
▶🚪	E<u>x</u>it JFTrans	
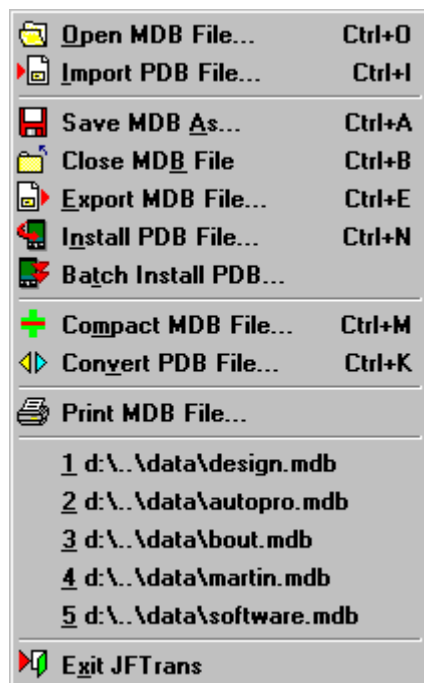
Open MDB File	Load an existing MDB database
Import PDB File	Import a JFile PDB into JFTrans
Save MDB As	Save loaded MDB under another filename
Close MDB File	Close the open MDB file
Export MDB File	Export current data to a PDB file
Install PDB File	Export current date and install the resulting PDB file
Batch Install PDB	Batch Install PDB files to Pilot
Compact MDB File	Pack the current MDB file to reduce the file size
Convert PDB File	Convert between JFile formats
Print MDB File	Print the current file
Exit JFTrans	Close JFTrans

File History
The File History tracks files that have been opened and always displays the latest file at the top of the list. To open a file, just left mouse-click on the desired file. By default, JFTrans keeps a history on 5 files, however this number can be changed, or the File History option can be disabled entirely from the Settings Tab.

In order to reduce the width of the menu as much as possible, file names are displayed depending on how

deeply they reside within the directory structure. The qualified path & name of any file off of the root, or 1 sub directory deep, is always displayed in its entirety. Files that are located in deeper sub directory levels are displayed as follow:

Drive Designation + \ ..\ + sub directory + filename

For example, the filename 'G:\APPS\PSI\DATA\TEST.MDB' would appear on the menu as 'g:\..\data\test.mdb. The filenames on the menu are always displayed in lowercase letters.

The file history can be cleared using the Clear File History option on the Options Menu, should it contain dead files.

Edit Menu

Edit Popups...	Ctrl+P
Sort Records...	Ctrl+S
Search Records...	Ctrl+H
Replace...	Ctrl+R
Filter Records...	Ctrl+F
Delete Records...	Ctrl+D
Duplicate Record	Ctrl+L
SQL Query...	
First Record	
Last Record	

Edit Popups   Edit the Popup Lists in the database

Sort Records   Sort the database records
Search Records   Search the database for specific records
Replace   Globally replace field values
Filter Records   Display records meeting a specific criteria
Delete Records   Delete the current or selected records

Duplicate Record   Duplicate the current record

SQL Query   Query the database with SQL

First Record   Move to the first record in the database
Last Record   Move to the last record in the database

Database Menu

Create New File...	Ctrl+W
Create from Access...	Ctrl+T
Create from Excel...	Ctrl+Q
Import from Template...	Ctrl+Z
Database View...	
Modify Database...	Ctrl+Y
JFile Settings...	Ctrl+J
Auto Increment...	Ctrl+U
Grid Layouts...	Ctrl+G
View Hide Totals	
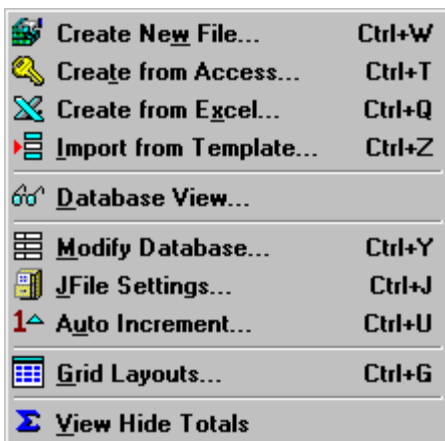
Create New File	Create New MDB / PDB file
Create from Access	Create New File from an Access File
Create from Excel	Create New File from an Excel worksheet
Import from Template	Import Access Data from Template
Database View	View MDB files and import / install history
Modify Database	Modify the Current Database Structures
JFile Settings	View or modify the JFile PDB settings
Auto Increment	Manage Auto Increment field values
Grid Layouts	View or delete stored grid layouts
View Hide Totals	Toggle the Totals View On or Off

Options Menu
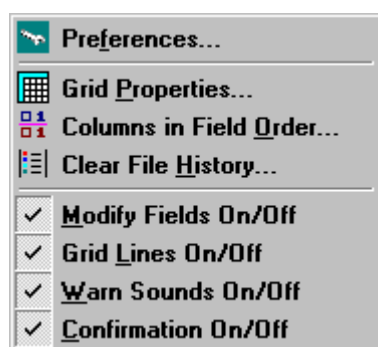
Preferences	Set user preferences and paths
Grid Properties	Set grid display properties
Columns in Field Order	Set all columns to the same order as the fields
Clear File History	Clear the file history on the File Menu

The following choices toggle the status of various JFTrans options. These settings are used for the current session **only**, and will revert back to your default settings as set in Preferences.

Modify Types On/Off
This option toggles the Modify Field Types dialog box On or Off. When On, JFTrans will display the dialog box whenever you import a new PDB file, so that you can modify the field types used in the new MDB file.

Grid Lines On/Off
This option provides a fast way to turn the grid lines On or Off.

Warn Sounds On/Off
This option provides a fast way to turn the warning beeps On or Off.

Confirmation On/Off
This option provides a fast way to toggle the confirmation dialogs On or Off.

Help Menu

📖	JFTrans Help <u>C</u>ontents...	F1
📑	<u>S</u>earch JFTrans Topics...	
🌐	JFTrans on the <u>W</u>eb...	
📧	<u>E</u>Mail Tech Support...	
📂	<u>R</u>egister JFTrans...	
⚡	<u>A</u>bout JFTrans...	

JFTrans Help Contents   Display the Help Contents tab
Search JFTrans Topics   Display the Help Index tab

JFTrans on the Web   Connect to the JFTrans Web Site
Email Tech Support   Send Mail to Tech Support
Register JFTrans   Register your copy of JFTrans

About JFTrans   Display information about JFTrans

Configuring JFTrans

Preferences
Set Backup Directory
Grid Properties
Layouts
System Tray

These links describe the various options available to configure JFTrans to your tastes and hardware setup.

Preferences
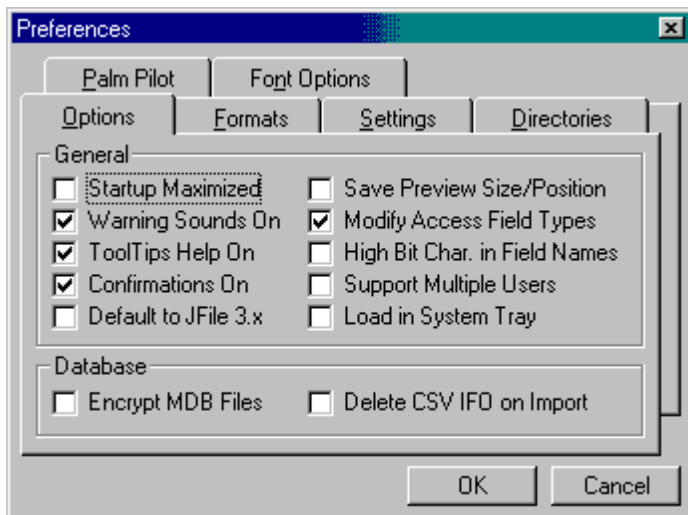
Options Tab
Formats Tab
Settings Tab
Directories Tab
Palm Pilot Tab
Font Options Tab

Cancel	Discard any changes and close the Preferences dialog box.
OK	Accept and write all changes and close the Preferences dialog box.

Options Tab
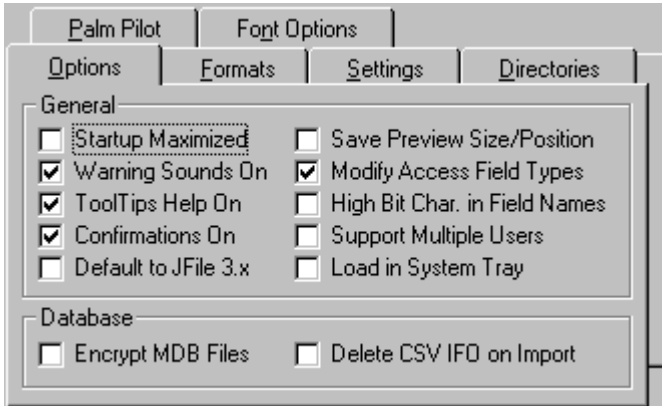
General Settings

Start Maximized
This option forces JFTrans to startup maximized, ie. Full screen.

Default: **Off**

Warning Sounds On
This option tells JFTrans to sound warning beeps on common errors. Some critical errors that can occur in JFTrans ignore this setting and always sound a beep.

Default: **Off**

ToolTips Help On
This option tells JFTrans to display tooltips help when the mouse is passed over any control or button that contains tip information.

Default: **On**

Confirmation On
This option tells JFTrans to display a confirmation dialog box whenever you are about to execute a function that overwrites existing files or potentially damages the database.

Default: **On**

Default to JFile 3.x
If you do not use JFile 4.x then toggle this option on and JFTrans will default any JFile related functions to use JFile 3.x processing instead of JFile 4.x.

Default: **Off**

Save Preview Size/Position
If you use the Print Preview screen a lot, then this option tells JFTrans to save the current size and position of the Preview window and use these settings whenever the Preview window is opened. This way, you can set a size and position for the window that best suits your needs, instead of always being stuck with the default size and location.   Be aware that JFTrans will **not** save the size and position if the Preview window is maximized. If you want a large Preview window, then size it with a mouse instead of clicking the Maximize button.

Default: **Off**

Modify Access Field Types
This option forces JFTrans to display the Modify Field Types dialog box whenever a PDB file is imported. This function allows you to change the data types used in the Access MDB file. If your data files always contain strings that are shorter than 250 characters, and you are happy with the default field translation types, then leave this option unchecked, Off.

Default: **On**

High Bit Char. in Field Names
When importing a PDB file, JFTrans checks the field names for illegal characters, ie. those that would create error messages in the Access data engine or the print engine. This processing works well with non-Asian character sets, but creates problems with Asian languages that use high bit characters. With this option, you can force JFTrans to allow high bit characters and thereby support Asian character sets. If you are running an Asian language version of Windows and using Asian language extensions on the Pilot, such as JOS, then this option should be set **on**.

Default: **Off**

Support Multiple Users
This option sets JFTrans into Multiple User mode, allowing it to support multiple users individually and install files to more than one user in the same pass. If JFTrans has any problem identifying a multi-user Pilot setup, then this option is turned off and disabled.

Default: **Off**

Load in System Tray
This option allows you to run JFTrans from an icon in the System Tray. Please see the System Tray topic for more information.

Default: **Off**

Database Settings

Encrypt MDB File
This option tells JFTrans to create an encrypted Access MDB file whenever a database file is built by JFTrans.

Default: **Off**

Delete CSV IFO on Import
This option tells JFTrans to dump the IFO and CSV files created whenever a file is imported into JFTrans. If you do not need these files for other purposes, then toggle this option On.

Default: **Off**

Create in Access 97
This option determines the Access format of any database created by JFTrans 2000. This option is only relevant to JFTrans 2000, and not JFTrans.

Default: **Off**

Formats Tab
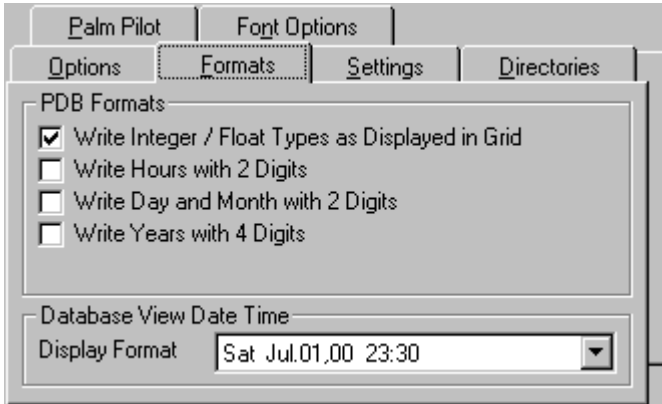
Write Integer / Float Types as Displayed in Grid
This option tells JFTrans to write out any integer or floating type numbers in the same format as they are currently displayed in the grid. This is very useful when a database contains currency values for example, in that the trailing zero or a separator character will be included automatically when the value is written out to the PDB file.

Default: **On**

Write Hours with 2 Digits
This option tells JFTrans to write out hour values with 2 digits, and therefore add a leading zero to a single digit hour. This option is of value when you want to visually align time values in JFile.

Default: **Off**

Write Day and Month with 2 Digits
This option tells JFTrans to write out day and month values with 2 digits, and therefore add a leading zero to single digit day and month values. This option is useful when you want to visually align date vales in JFile 4.x.

Default: **Off**

Write Years with 4 Digits
This option tells JFTrans to write out date values with 4 digit years, in order to be compatible with JFile 4.x. You can use this option with the older 3.x format also. When dates are written to a PDB file, JFTrans formats the date according to the selected Pilot Date Format in Preferences, and expands the year portion of the string to 4 digits instead of the more standard 2 digit.

Default: **Off**

Note :

The hour, day, month, and year options are **Off** by default, primarily to decrease the size of the resulting JFile database when installed to the Pilot. If you do not need a specific option, we suggest that you turn it off to conserve space.

Database View Date Time
This option sets the display format of dates and times in the Database View function. The default setting may force the column widths to be too wide for the size of the window you have set, and you can select a more compact format in order to reduce the column widths.

Settings Tab
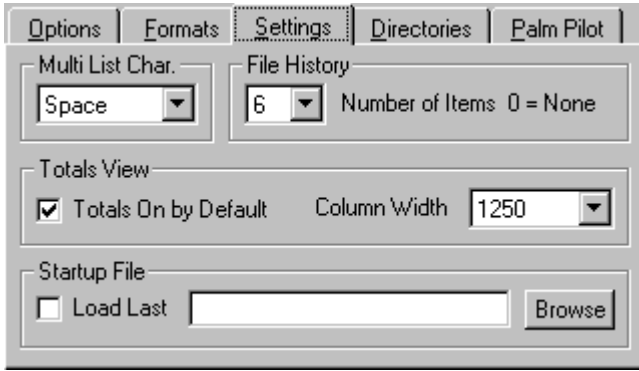
Multi List Char.

This dropdown list allows you to set the character that is inserted between an existing string in a field and the text selected from a Multi List type popup. By default, JFile 4.x inserts a space between the two strings, but JFTrans allows you to use another character if you want. Just be aware that the selected character will **not** be available on the Pilot, only in JFTrans.

Default: **Space**

File History

This dropdown list allows you to select the number of files to display in the history list on the File Menu. You can select from 1 to 10 files to display, or select O to disable the file history feature entirely.

Default: **5**

Totals View

The **Totals On by Default** option forces JFTrans to always open the Totals View whenever the program is started.

The **Column Width** option allows you to set the width of the Totals cells should the default width be either too large or too small for the typical values displayed.

Startup File

The **Load Last** option forces JFTrans to reopen the MDB file that was loaded when you last shut down JFTrans. If you close the MDB file before shutting down JFTrans, then JFTrans will start normally with an empty grid.

Alternately, you can uncheck the **Load Last** option and select an MDB file to load every time JFTrans starts up. Just click on the **Browse** button and select the MDB file you want. To clear this option, simply delete the filename from the text box.

Note : Be aware that both of these options are negated by specifying a file on the command line or via an icon. A startup file specified this way will always take precedence over these options.

Directories Tab
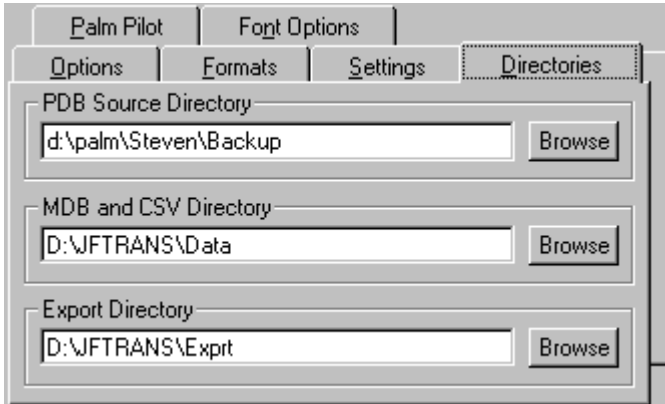
PDB Source Directory

This path should be set to the BACKUP directory found under the PALM\USERNAME or PILOT\USERNAME path on your harddrive. This is the directory where all of your current PDB files reside when they are HotSynced from the Pilot.   Please be aware that this option is grayed out and disabled if you have enabled **Support Multiple Users** on the Options Tab. In Multiple User mode, JFTrans always user the current users BACKUP directory as the default directory.

MDB CSV Directory

This is the drive where JFTrans will write any MDB, IFO and CSV files that it generates when Importing PDB files. Install automatically creates a JFTrans\Data directory and maps this setting to this path.

Export Directory

This is the drive where JFTrans will write any PDB files that it generates when exporting or installing PDB files. Install automatically creates a JFTrans\Exprt directory and maps this setting to this path.

The **Browse** button beside each directory can be used to open the Directories box and select the required drive and directory path.

Directories Box
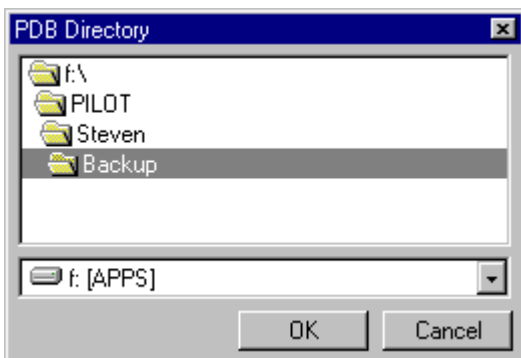
Cancel   Discard Selected Directory
OK   Accept Selected Directory

The Directories Box is just a simple file box that allows you to set an appropriate drive and directory path. This

tool is used by Preferences and the Set Backup Directory dialogs when you click on the **Browse** button.

Palm Pilot Tab
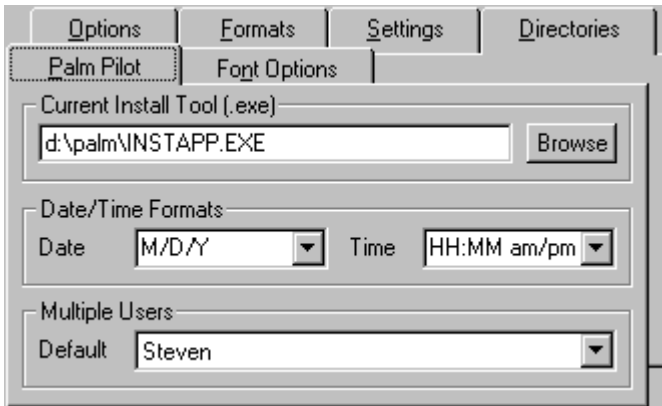
Current Install Tool

This option enables you to change the install tool used by **JFTrans**, should you wish to use a commercial or shareware installer instead of the tool supplied with your Pilot. By default, the standard install tool is set by **JFTrans** when you first start the program. To change the installer, simply click on the **Browse** button and the dialog box, illustrated below, will appear.
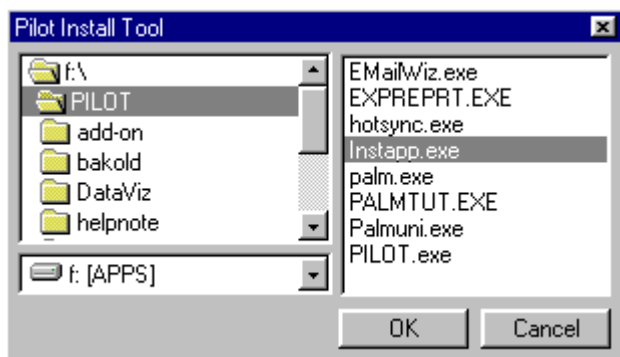
Just use the file box options to select the installer executable (.EXE) file to use, and then click on the **OK** button.

Be aware that the installer you choose to use **must** be able to install a PDB file from the command line. For example, it must be able to install a file with a command like this :

INSTALL TEST.PDB

If it cannot, and you have to open the install tool first, in order to specify the PDB file you want to use, then it **cannot** be used in **JFTrans**. Also, be aware that this setting has no effect if you have enabled **Support Multiple Users** on the Options Tab. The install tool is not used at all in this mode.

Dates
This option sets JFTrans to the same data format that your Palm Pilot is using, so that any exported or installed date information is correctly formatted for use in JFile. Just set this option to the same value you have selected in the Pilot Preferences / Format screen.

Time
This option sets JFTrans to the same time format that your Palm Pilot is using, so that any exported or installed

time information is correctly formatted for use in JFile. Just set this option to the same value you have selected in the Pilot Preferences / Format screen.

Multiple User Default
This option allows you to set the default user from a list of all users sharing the same Desktop. On startup, JFTrans sets the current user to the one you specify here. Be aware that this option has no effect unless the **Support Multiple Users** option on the Options Tab has been toggled On.   If JFTrans has any problem identifying a multiuser Pilot setup, then this option is disabled.

Font Options Tab
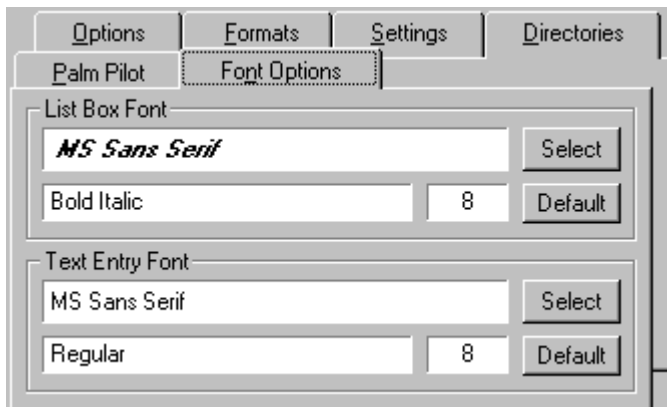
| **Select** | Select the desired font |
| **Default** | Restore the default font (MS Sans serif) |

These two font options are intended primarily to support double byte character sets, such as those found on Japanese and other Asian systems. While they can certainly be used by any JFTrans user, the results may be a bit strange if they are not set to the MS Sans Serif default.

The **List Box** font is used in any pulldown lists or combination lists as well as the other grids found throughout JFTrans, such as the Popup Editor or the Modify Database grid. This latter example clearly illustrates how the list box font is applied. The grid is composed of columns that represent the name of data fields in Access and JFile, and also system settings such as field types. The list box font will **only** be applied to those elements that represents user data and can be edited, such as the field names. Any system or JFTrans specific elements, such as the pulldown field types, will remain in the default MS Sans Serif font so that all of the text strings and control descriptions will match.

The **Text Box** font is applied to any editable field, such as a prompt for the title of a JFile database or a search string.

Set Backup Directory
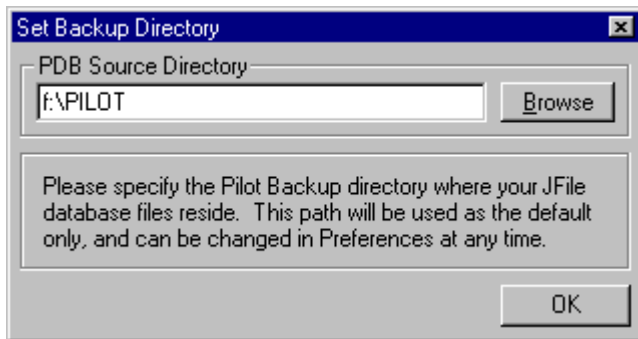
Browse   Select Directory from File Box
OK   Accept Entered Path and Close the Dialog Box

The Set Backup Directory dialog box only appears when JFTrans is run for the first time, or if the registry has somehow got corrupted and the backup path has been lost. The path you select, or enter, determines the default directory where JFTrans will find your JFile PDB databases. Typically, you would set this path to your Pilot BACKUP directory as that is where the current databases are saved when you HotSync.

Grid Properties

Layout Tab
Color Tab
Format Tab
Layouts

OK   Save Grid Properties
Cancel   Discard Changes & Close

The Grid Properties box enables you to set the font, color, and other appearance aspects of the JFTrans grid.

Please be aware that all grid properties, with the exception of the **Row Height**, are global, that is to say that they affect every MDB file that is loaded into JFTrans.

Layout Tab
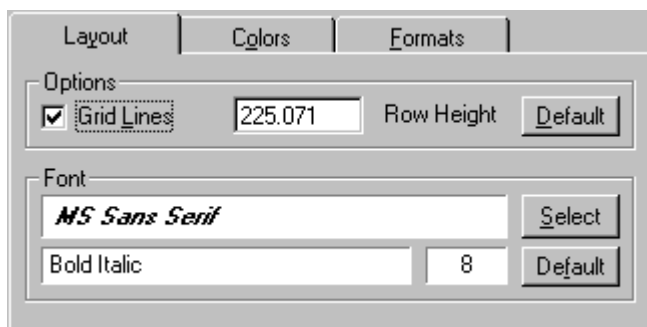
Options   Change Grid Line Settings
Font   Change Font Settings
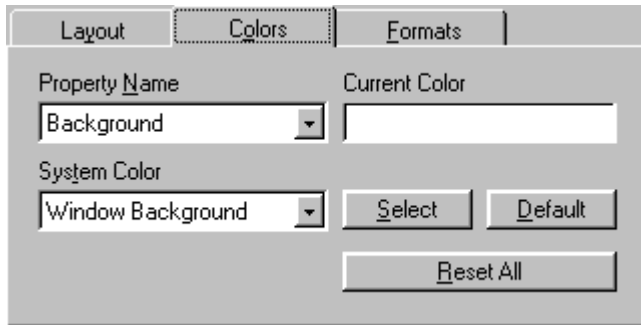
The Layout Tab allows you to change the layout aspects of the grids used in JFTrans.

To turn the grid lines on, just check off the **Grid Lines** option. You can changes the **Row Height** by entering a new height value in the text box. If you want to restore the row height to its default value, then just click the **Default** button.

The font section displays the current font name, type, and point size. To change it, just click on the **Select** button, and the standard Windows 95 font selection dialog box will pop up. If you want to reset the font to the default, then just click the **Default** button.

Be aware that values set in the Grid Properties dialog box affect every MDB file that you load into JFTrans. The only option that is set on a file by file basis is the **Row Height** value. This is required in the instance where you have an MDB file containing Memo fields, and you have to be able to size the rows in order to easily read the data.

Color Tab
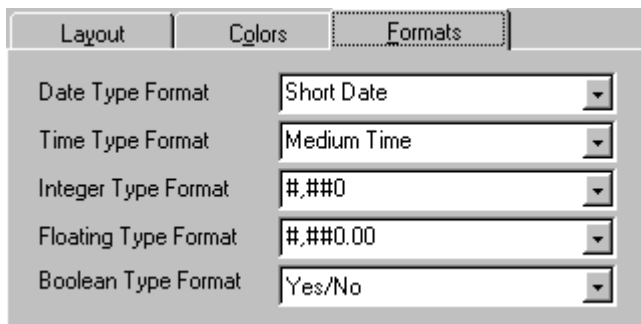
Property Name	Select Color Property to Change
System Color	Set Property to a System Color
Select	Select Color from Dialog
Default	Set Color to Default
Reset All	Reset All Default Colors

To change the grid colors, simply select the property you want to change from the **Property Name** dropdown list. The **Current Color** swatch will change to display the current color assigned to that property. You can then either select a **System Color** to use, or select a color from a color box using the **Select** button.

If you want to reset a properties color to its default, then select the property and click the **Default** button. To reset all colors to the default, just click the **Reset All** button.

Format Tab

For numeric data, the following predefined format names can be used:

General Number
Display number as is, with no thousand separators.

Currency
Display number with thousand separator, if appropriate; display two digits to the right of the decimal separator. Note that output is based on system locale settings.

Fixed
Display at least one digit to the left and two digits to the right of the decimal separator.

Standard
Display number with thousands separator, at least one digit to the left and two digits to the right of the decimal separator.

Percent

Display number multiplied by 100 with a percent sign (%) appended to the right; always display two digits to the right of the decimal separator.

Scientific

Use standard scientific notation.

You can also specify Custom Numeric Formats for your specific use.

For Boolean data, the following predefined format names can be used:

Yes/No

Display No if number is 0; otherwise, display Yes.

True/False

Display False if number is 0; otherwise, display True.

On/Off

Display Off if number is 0; otherwise, display On.

CheckBox

This setting displays Boolean values as graphic checkboxes, in the same manner as they would appear in JFile on the Pilot. Be aware that if you select this setting the Boolean field types in a report will always appear as a **Yes** or **No** on the printed report, instead of a checkbox graphic. This is required when you export a report to an RTF file.

For date and time data, the following predefined format names can be used:

General Date

Display a date and/or time. For real numbers, display a date and time (for example, 4/3/93 05:34 PM); if there is no fractional part, display only a date (for example, 4/3/93); if there is no integer part, display only a time (for example, 05:34 PM). Date display is determined by your system settings.

Long Date

Display a date according to your system's long date format.

Short Date

Display a date using your system's short date format.

Long Time

Display a time using your system's long time format: includes hours, minutes, seconds.

Medium Time

Display a time in 12-hour format using hours and minutes and the AM/PM designator.

Short Time

Display a time using the 24-hour format (for example, 17:45).

You can also specify Custom Date/Time Formats for your specific use.

Custom Numeric Formats

You can easily create your own numeric formats from the values listed below, instead of selecting a predefined format from the dropdown list. Just type the required element codes into the text box .   Some examples appear

at the end of this topic.

None
Display the number with no formatting.

(0)
Digit placeholder. Display a digit or a zero. If the expression has a digit in the position where the 0 appears in the format string, display it; otherwise, display a zero in that position. If the number has fewer digits than there are zeros (on either side of the decimal) in the format expression, display leading or trailing zeros. If the number has more digits to the right of the decimal separator than there are zeros to the right of the decimal separator in the format expression, round the number to as many decimal places as there are zeros. If the number has more digits to the left of the decimal separator than there are zeros to the left of the decimal separator in the format expression, display the extra digits without modification.

(#)
Digit placeholder. Display a digit or nothing. If the expression has a digit in the position where the # appears in the format string, display it; otherwise, display nothing in that position. This symbol works like the 0 digit placeholder, except that leading and trailing zeros aren't displayed if the number has the same or fewer digits than there are # characters on either side of the decimal separator in the format expression.

(.)
Decimal placeholder. In some locales, a comma is used as the decimal separator. The decimal placeholder determines how many digits are displayed to the left and right of the decimal separator. If the format expression contains only number signs to the left of this symbol, numbers smaller than 1 begin with a decimal separator. To display a leading zero displayed with fractional numbers, use 0 as the first digit placeholder to the left of the decimal separator. The actual character used as a decimal placeholder in the formatted output depends on the Number Format recognized by your system.

(%)
Percentage placeholder. The expression is multiplied by 100. The percent character (%) is inserted in the position where it appears in the format string.

(,)
Thousand separator. In some locales, a period is used as a thousand separator. The thousand separator separates thousands from hundreds within a number that has four or more places to the left of the decimal separator. Standard use of the thousand separator is specified if the format contains a thousand separator surrounded by digit placeholders (0 or #). Two adjacent thousand separators or a thousand separator immediately to the left of the decimal separator (whether or not a decimal is specified) means "scale the number by dividing it by 1000, rounding as needed." For example, you can use the format string "##0,," to represent 100 million as 100. Numbers smaller than 1 million are displayed as 0. Two adjacent thousand separators in any position other than immediately to the left of the decimal separator are treated simply as specifying the use of a thousand separator. The actual character used as the thousand separator in the formatted output depends on the Number Format recognized by your system.

(:)
Time separator. In some locales, other characters may be used to represent the time separator. The time separator separates hours, minutes, and seconds when time values are formatted. The actual character used as the time separator in formatted output is determined by your system settings.

(/)
Date separator. In some locales, other characters may be used to represent the date separator. The date separator separates the day, month, and year when date values are formatted. The actual character used as the date separator in formatted output is determined by your system settings.

(E- E+ e- e+)
Scientific format. If the format expression contains at least one digit placeholder (0 or #) to the right of E-, E+, e-, or e+, the number is displayed in scientific format and E or e is inserted between the number and its exponent. The number of digit placeholders to the right determines the number of digits in the exponent. Use E- or e- to place a minus sign next to negative exponents. Use E+ or e+ to place a minus sign next to negative exponents

and a plus sign next to positive exponents.

- + $ ( )
Display a literal character. To display a character other than one of those listed, precede it with a backslash (\) or enclose it in double quotation marks (" ").

(\)
Display the next character in the format string. To display a character that has special meaning as a literal character, precede it with a backslash (\). The backslash itself isn't displayed. Using a backslash is the same as enclosing the next character in double quotation marks. To display a backslash, use two backslashes (\\).Examples of characters that can't be displayed as literal characters are the date-formatting and time-formatting characters (a, c, d, h, m, n, p, q, s, t, w, y, / and :), the numeric-formatting characters (#, 0, %, E, e, comma, and period), and the string-formatting characters (@, &, <, >, and !).

("ABC")
Display the string inside the double quotation marks (" ").

Examples :

These examples assume that you system locale is United States / English.

String	Positive	Negative
0	5	-5
0.00	5.00	-5.00
#,##0	5	-5
#,##0.00;;;Nil	5	.00
$#,##0;($#,##0)	$5	($5)
$#,##0.00;($#,##0.00)	$5.00	($5.00)
0%	500%	-500%
0.00%	500.00%	-500.00%
0.00E+00	5.00E+00	-5.00E+00
0.00E-00	5.00E00	-5.00E00

Custom Date/Time Formats

You can easily create your own date or time formats from the codes listed below, instead of selecting a predefined format from the dropdown list. Just type the required element codes into the text box . Some examples appear at the end of this topic.

Date Format Values

(:)
Time separator. In some locales, other characters may be used to represent the time separator. The time separator separates hours, minutes, and seconds when time values are formatted. The actual character used as the time separator in formatted output is determined by your system settings.

(/)
Date separator. In some locales, other characters may be used to represent the date separator. The date separator separates the day, month, and year when date values are formatted. The actual character used as the date separator in formatted output is determined by your system settings.

c
Display the date as ddddd and display the time as ttttt, in that order. Display only date information if there is no fractional part to the date serial number; display only time information if there is no integer portion.

d

Display the day as a number without a leading zero (1 – 31).

dd
Display the day as a number with a leading zero (01 – 31).

ddd
Display the day as an abbreviation (Sun – Sat).

dddd
Display the day as a full name (Sunday – Saturday).

ddddd
Display the date as a complete date (including day, month, and year), formatted according to your system's short date format setting. For Windows, the default short date format is m/d/yy.

dddddd
Display a date serial number as a complete date (including day, month, and year) formatted according to the long date setting recognized by your system. For Windows, the default long date format is mmmm dd, yyyy.

w
Display the day of the week as a number (1 for Sunday through 7 for Saturday).

ww
Display the week of the year as a number (1 – 54).

m
Display the month as a number without a leading zero (1 – 12). If m immediately follows h or hh, the minute rather than the month is displayed.

mm
Display the month as a number with a leading zero (01 – 12). If m immediately follows h or hh, the minute rather than the month is displayed.

mmm
Display the month as an abbreviation (Jan – Dec).

mmmm
Display the month as a full month name (January – December).

q
Display the quarter of the year as a number (1 – 4).

y
Display the day of the year as a number (1 – 366).

yy
Display the year as a 2-digit number (00 – 99).

yyyy
Display the year as a 4-digit number (100 – 9999).

Time Format Values

h
Display the hour as a number without leading zeros (0 – 23).

hh
Display the hour as a number with leading zeros (00 – 23).

n
Display the minute as a number without leading zeros (0 – 59).

nn
Display the minute as a number with leading zeros (00 – 59).

s
Display the second as a number without leading zeros (0 – 59).

ss
Display the second as a number with leading zeros (00 – 59).

t t t t t
Display a time as a complete time (including hour, minute, and second), formatted using the time separator defined by the time format recognized by your system. A leading zero is displayed if the leading zero option is selected and the time is before 10:00 A.M. or P.M. For Windows, the default time format is h:mm:ss.

AM/PM
Use the 12-hour clock and display an uppercase AM with any hour before noon; display an uppercase PM with any hour between noon and 11:59 P.M.

am/pm
Use the 12-hour clock and display a lowercase AM with any hour before noon; display a lowercase PM with any hour between noon and 11:59 P.M.

A/P
Use the 12-hour clock and display an uppercase A with any hour before noon; display an uppercase P with any hour between noon and 11:59 P.M.

a/p
Use the 12-hour clock and display a lowercase A with any hour before noon; display a lowercase P with any hour between noon and 11:59 P.M.
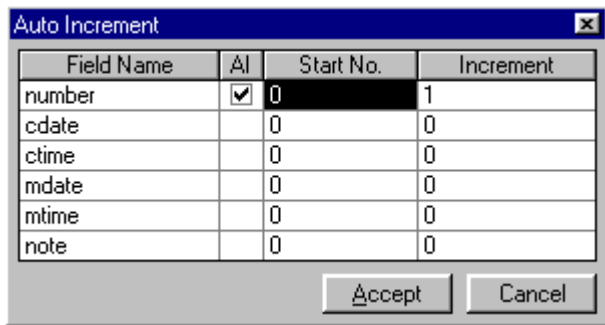
AMPM
Use the 12-hour clock and display the AM string literal as defined by your system with any hour before noon; display the PM string literal as defined by your system with any hour between noon and 11:59 P.M. AMPM can be either uppercase or lowercase, but the case of the string displayed matches the string as defined by your system settings. For Windows, the default format is AM/PM.

Examples :

```
m/d/yy          12/7/58
d-mmm           7-Dec
d-mmmm-yy       7-December-58
d mmmm7 December
mmmm yy         December 58
hh:mm AM/PM     08:50 PM
h:mm:ss a/p     8:50:35 p
h:mm            20:50
h:mm:ss  20:50:35
m/d/yy h:mm     12/7/58 20:50
```

Auto Increment

Accept	Accept the current changes
Cancel	Close the Auto Increment dialog box

The **Auto Increment** function allows you to quickly change the Start Number and Increment Value of an Auto Increment field on the fly. This is useful if you delete some newly added records for example and then need to sync back the start number to before the deletions. The start number is always the value that will be used in the **next** new record added to the database. After this value is entered into the new record, JFTrans increments the start number by the specified increment value, ready for the next new record you add.

Auto Increment displays all of the fields in the database and indicates which of them is an Auto Increment data type by displaying a checkbox in the AI column. You can change the values for any field in fact, but only the changes to an Auto Increment field will have any affect. When the changes are want you want, click the **Accept** button to save them, or click **Cancel** to discard the changes.

If the database is in the older 3.x format then the Auto Increment function is disabled on the Database menu. If the 4.x database does not contain an Auto Increment field type, then a message will appear to inform you of the fact and the Auto Increment function will not open.

Multiple User Support

JFTrans supports both single and multiple users. The Support Multiple Users option on the Palm Pilot Tab of Preferences determines which user mode JFTrans will run in. The principle difference between the two modes are as follows :

Single User Mode

- JFTrans displays the standard toolbar.
- JFTrans uses the default directory set in Preferences as the default when importing a PDB file.
- JFTrans always runs the specified Install Tool when installing a PDB file.

Multiple User Mode

- JFTrans display the Multiple User Toolbar that provides the means to easily change the current user.
- JFTrans uses the Backup directory of the current user as the default directory when importing a PDB file.
- JFTrans always installs the PDB file directly and does not run the specified Install Tool at all.

In Multiple User mode, you can use JFTrans in a number of very useful ways. You could for example, use it to maintain a common database on the PC that can be easily distributed to all users whenever the contents changed. The Install function allows you to specify which users get the updated file.

You could also use JFTrans to maintain a master list on the PC that could then be redistributed. The individual users could collect data on the Pilot and then append the data to the master table on the PC. Please be aware

that JFTrans does **not** check for duplicate records in this scenario. Whoever maintains this master table on the PC would have to remove any redundant data manually.

System Tray

When you select the Load in System Tray option in Preferences, you can run JFTrans from an icon in the System Tray. When the option is toggled on, a small grid icon appears in the system tray as illustrated below, just to the left of the time display.

If you right mouse click on the icon, JFTrans will appear or disappear from your display.   The program is still loaded into memory however, and this action simply shows or hides the JFTrans window. Alternately, you can left mouse click on the icon and a small menu will appear as illustrated below.

The first item will show or hide JFTrans depending on its current status.

The **Exit JFTrans** option will unload JFTrans from memory and shut it down. When you restart JFTrans and the **Load in System Tray** option is on, JFTrans will display a splash screen for a few seconds and then go to sleep as it were. Just use the icon to show or hide it.

Warning :

You **must** use the **Exit JFTrans** option on the system tray icon before you shut Windows down.

Working with Data Grids

Navigating the Grid
Grid Columns & Rows
Grid Splits
Selecting Records
Adding Records
Editing Records
Deleting Records
Grid Popup Menu
Calendar Popup

Navigating the Grid

Grid Functions

Last Name	First Name	Salut.	Company
Aakhus	Greg	Mr.	MYF Software
Abbott	George		Pro Dev Software
Achim	Julian		Software Vision Corporation
Adams	Larry		Quality Software, Inc.
Ainsbury	Bob		TechnoJock Software Inc
Alaimo	Randall		
Allan	Brian		Sunshower Systems Inc
Allen	Michael		Natural Software
Allen	Dennis		
Allison	John B.		Allison Software
Allsopp	Stephen		

The data grid supports either the mouse or key combinations. The simplest way to move around is by using the mouse and the standard Windows scroll bars. You can also use the following keys :

Home	First cell in current record
End	Last cell in current record
Ctrl-Home	First cell in first record
Ctrl-End	Last cell in last record
PgUp	Scroll up one screen
PgDn	Scroll down one screen

Arrow Keys   Move around the grid as you would expect

Toolbar Controls

The Toolbar controls provides a convenient way to move through the records in your file using a mouse. The two buttons function as follows :

Go to First Record
Go to Last Record

Grid Columns & Rows

The grid columns in JFTrans can be sized to suit your needs. Any revisions you make are saved in the layout file for the next time you load the database file.

Resizing Columns:

To resize a column, just position the mouse pointer over the dividing line between one column header and the next. The pointer will change to a vertical line with two small arrows, as illustrated below. You can then hold down the left mouse button and drag the pointer to resize the column, and then release the mouse button.

Moving Columns:

To re-arrange a column or group of columns, just hold the mouse pointer over the column header, and the pointer will change to a black arrow as illustrated below.

Click the left mouse button, and the column will be highlighted in red. To add an adjacent column to the selection, just repeat the same process while holding down the Shift key.

When you have a column or block of columns selected, just hold down the left mouse button with the pointer on the column header. The pointer will change to a white arrow with a small box below it. You can now drag the pointer to the left or right as appropriate. The selected columns will move with the mouse pointer.

To reset all columns back to the same order as the fields in the database, use the Columns in Field Order option on the Options Menu.

Changing the Row Height:

To change the height of the grid rows, either right click anywhere on the grid and select the Grid Properties item in the menu, or click on the Grid Properties button on the toolbar. The row height and other display options can be easily modified there. If you want to restore the row height to its default value, then you **must** change the value from within the Grid Properties dialog box.

To change the height of the grid rows with the mouse, just position the mouse pointer over any dividing line between rows. The pointer will change to a horizontal line with two vertical arrows, as illustrated below.

Just hold down the left mouse button, and drag the pointer up or down to resize the row height, and then release the button when the height is what you want.

Changing the row height is essential when you Import long text strings. In this instance, JFTrans enables wordwrap on any text fields so that you can easily display memo strings without having to scroll the display excessively to the left.

Grid Splits

The JFTrans grids support Excel like splits, to allow you to lock off columns etc. In the bottom left corner of the grid you will see a small black bar to the left of the scroll bar. When you position the mouse pointer over the black bar, the pointer will change shape, as illustrated below.

To create a split, just hold down the left mouse button and drag the bar to the right until the split is the size you want, and then release the mouse button.

You can create as many splits as you need, up to the size limits of your display and the JFTrans desktop.

Splits are retained by JFTrans when you load a new file or close the program. This information is saved into the grid layout file.

Grid Layouts
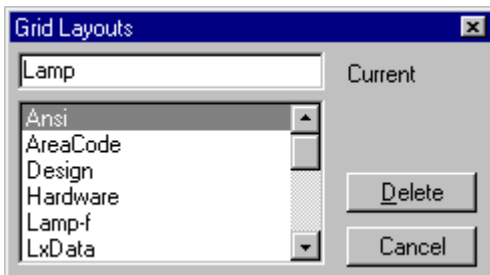
Delete   Delete Highlighted Layout
OK   Close Layouts Box

JFTrans creates and uses layouts to preserve user preferences and column arrangements etc. A layout is created for each new PDB file that is imported, and is saved in the JFTRANS.GRX file. The layout is always named the same as the imported PDB file. This layout is always reused when you import a PDB file, unless you

tell JFTrans not to use the old format setting with the Preserve Grid Format option. The layout is always loaded when you open a matching MDB file.

The layout contains information on column titles and widths, numeric and date formats, and the status of any splits you have arranged in the grid. A layout is basically a 'snapshot' of the current grid settings.

Because a layout is automatically added to the JFTRANS.GRX file whenever an MDB file is initially created from a PDB file, the GRX file may contain layouts for files that you have discarded or renamed along the way. You might also change the database structure of a file in JFile itself, and want to remove the old layout in JFTrans before Importing the new PDB file.

The **Delete** button on the Layouts dialog box will dump the highlighted layout from within the GRX file. Please be careful, as JFTrans gives you no warning when you click the Delete button, it just nukes the specified layout.

Selecting Records
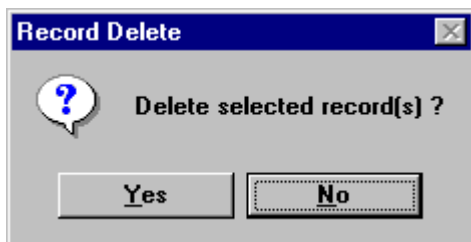
To select a record in the data grid, simply click on the selector box to the left of the appropriate row. A right arrow will appear as the cursor hovers over the selector, and the row will turn red when you click the box. You can select multiple records by holding down the **Ctrl** key and clicking the selector boxes of the appropriate records.

You can select a block of records by left-clicking on the gray selector bar to the left of the data, and then pressing **Shift + Left** Click on a record further down the screen. All of the records between the first clicked record and shift clicked record will be selected. This function is identical to the manner in which you would select a block of files in the File Manager or Explorer.

You can select all of the records in a grid by clicking on the top-left junction of the column titles and the selection blocks on the left side. You can also select all records by clicking the **Select All Records** option on the Grid Popup Menu.

Because of the potential time it could take to select all records in a very large database, a status message appears on the status line in addition to an hourglass cursor.

Add Records

You can easily add new records to an open grid simply by moving to the last record in the file using the right most button of the data control or by pressing the **Ctrl-End** key combination. You will then see a blank record at the bottom of the display that contains an asterisk in the left most column, as illustrated above.

Simply double-click on the last row with the mouse, and start entering your data into the appropriate cells. When the new record is complete, simply click any other row in the grid, and JFTrans will add your new record.

If you try to close JFTrans by clicking the **Exit** button on the toolbar, then you will be warned that the new record has not been saved, and be given the opportunity to either complete the new record, or discard it and shut down JFTrans.

Editing Records

To edit a record displayed in a grid, simply double-click the appropriate cell, and JFTrans will change the background color to bright cyan by default, and position the cursor at the beginning of the field, as illustrated below. You can also use the **Alt-Enter** key combination from the keyboard.

	Rec.No.	Last Name	First Name	Salut.	Full Na
	123	JOHNSON	LUKE	DR	
	224	JOYCE	JOYCE	MRS.	
▶	267	JR MD	LOUIS A FRAGOLA	MR.	
	80	JUDGE	CHIEF	MR.	

Some field on a grid have dropdown list boxes that are connected to Popup tables within JFTrans. Just click on the down arrow and then click the item you want from the displayed list. To cancel a dropdown list, just press the **Escape** key.

Category		Gen.	Endorse		Free 1	
▶		M			DR LUKE JOHNSON	

Category	Description	
Association	Association / Community Group	YCE JOYCE
Automotive	Auto Dealers / Suppliers	UIS A FRAGOLA JR MD
Business	Business Services	HIEF JUDGE
Communication	Communications Company	R KARDON
Construction	Construction / Building	ERY LABEL
Education	University / College / School	R LAMARCHEE
	M	R C B LAMBETH
		ALLEN STERLING LOTH

When you are editing a specific field, you can pop up a small menu of choices by clicking the right mouse button. The items on this menu only affect the current cell contents.

Undo
Cut
Copy
Paste
Delete
Select All

This menu provides a means of undoing the last edit, copying or pasting the cell contents to or from the clipboard, or selecting the cell contents.

Notes:

JFTrans writes the grid row contents whenever the focus shifts to another control or menu item. You **never** have to worry about consciously saving data as JFTrans does it transparently.

Delete Records

The Delete Records function varies depending on whether or not you have multiple records selected in the grid or not. If there are no selected records then the following prompt box pops up to confirm the deletion when you click on the Delete button on the toolbar (Nuke icon) or press the Del key.
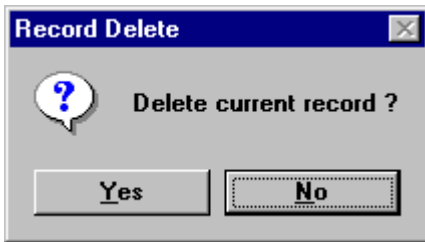
JFTrans assumes that you wish to delete the current record, the one with the arrow beside it in the leftmost column.

If more than one record has been selected, then JFTrans displays the following prompt box.
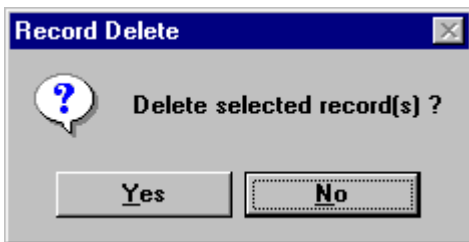
In either case, just confirm the deletion by clicking the **Yes** button, or cancel the operation by clicking **No**.

Grid Popup Menu
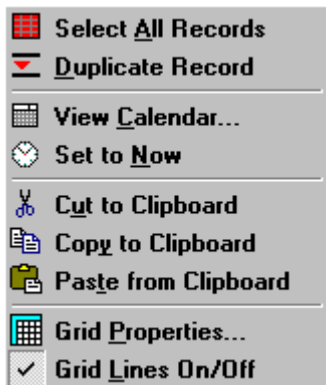
Select All Records	Select All Records in Active Grid
Duplicate Record	Duplicate the Current Record
View Calendar...	Select Date from Calendar
Set to Now	Set Date or Time Field to Current Date / Time
Copy to Clipboard	Copy Current Cell to Clipboard
Cut to Clipboard	Cut Current Cell to Clipboard
Paste From Clipboard	Paste from Clipboard into Current Cell

| **Grid Properties...** | Display the Grid Properties box. |
| **Grid Lines On/Off** | Toggle Grid Lines On or Off. |

Select All Records

This option will automatically select all of the records in the currently active grid.

Duplicate Record

This option will duplicate the current record, and is the same as the Duplicate Record item on the Edit Menu.

View Calendar

The View Calendar function loads the date in the current cell into a Calendar popup so that you can select a new date and paste it back into the current cell. This option is only enabled on the Grid Popup menu when a date or cell field is selected on the grid.

Set to Now

This option provides a quick and easy way to set a date or time field to the current date or time. Just highlight the appropriate cell and click this option, and the current date or time will replace the current cell contents. This option is only enabled on the Grid Popup menu when a date or cell field is selected on the grid.

Calendar Popup

The Calendar Popup provides a simple means of entering date information into the grid cells. If the current column contains a date field, then the calendar can be used by right-clicking for the Grid Popup Menu and then selecting the View Calendar item.

Today

This button just enters today's date into the current cell and closes the Calendar Popup.

Paste

This button just enters the selected date into the current cell and closes the Calendar Popup.

Cancel

This button closes the Calendar Popup without modifying the contents of the current cell.

Keyboard Commands

Basic Grid Movement

The data grid supports either the mouse or key combinations. The simplest way to move around is by using the mouse and the standard Windows scroll bars. You can also use the following keys :

Home	First cell in current record
End	Last cell in current record
Ctrl-Home	First cell in first record
Ctrl-End	Last cell in last record
PgUp	Scroll up one screen
PgDn	Scroll down one screen
Tab	Move to next cell to the right
Arrow Keys	Move around the grid as you would expect

Additional Functions

Alt-A   Select All

Selects all records in the open database. This function acts the same as clicking the top left junction of the column titles and the select boxes down the left side.

Alt-C   Calendar function

The Calendar Popup provides a simple means of entering date information into the grid cells. If the current cell contains a date field, then use Alt-C to popup a calendar.

Alt-P   Get previous cell contents

Enables you to copy the data in the cell immediately above the current cell, into the current cell. This is very useful when you have a column of data that is essentially the same. You can quickly grab the contents of the cell above with the Alt-P key combination and then move down to the next cell to repeat the process.

Alt-T   Toggle Auto Total

Turns the Auto Total function On or Off. See Totals View for more information.

Alt-S   Sum Totals

Calculate the sum of the column totals. See Totals View for more information.

Alt-G   Average Totals

Calculate the average of the column totals. See Totals View for more information.

Alt-V   Variance Totals

Calculate the variance of the column totals. See Totals View for more information.

Clipboard Support

JFTrans fully supports the Windows Clipboard so that you can copy, cut or paste into or from cells without putting the specific cell into edit mode. The standard key combinations are supported and the standard Clipboard commands also appear on the Grid Popup Menu that appears when you right button click on the JFTrans grid.

Ctrl C	Copy the current cell contents to the Clipboard
Ctrl X	Cut the current cell contents to the Clipboard
Ctrl V	Paste the contents of the Clipboard into the current cell

The main grid supports the key combinations and the Grid Menu while the Popups display is only supported by the key combinations.

Working with Records

Sort Records
Search Records
Filter Records
Edit Popups

Sort Records
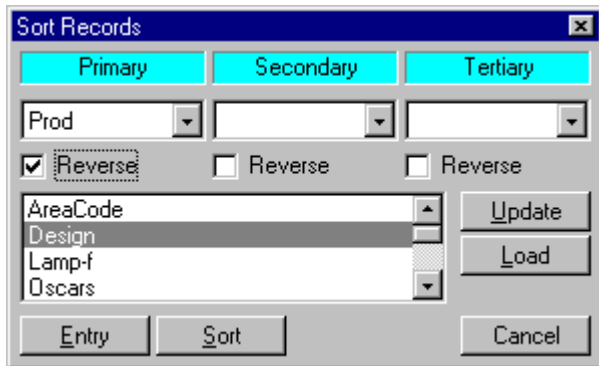
Entry	Sort in Entry Order
Sort	Sort in Specified Order
Update	Update saved Sort order
Load	Reload saved Sort order
Cancel	Close Sort Box

The Sort function provides the same sort options as JFile itself, in that you can select Primary, Secondary, or Tertiary sort items, and set each one in either ascending or descending (reverse) order. Just select the sort field for each category from the dropdown list, check or uncheck the associated **Reverse** option, and then click the **Sort** button to sort the database.

JFTrans will sort the database and save the current sort order into an internal table so that the next time you load the MDB file, it will be sorted as it was the last time you opened it.

You can also save a sort configuration into the registry by clicking the **Update** button. Any saved sort setups are displayed in the list box and can be applied by highlighting the appropriate filename and then clicking the **Load** button. These functions can be most useful if you want to save a default order for the file, yet change the sort order for a particular purpose. You could for example view the data in its entry order (unsorted), and then apply the standard sort order. We strongly suggest that you save the normal sort orders you want for each MDB file that you use frequently.

Please be aware that JFTrans cannot **Sort** on Memo field types. If an MDB file contains Memo fields, then these field names will be excluded from the dropdown list boxes. This is a limitation of Access and SQL Queries, not JFTrans.

Search Records

Field   Field Name
Condition   Search Condition
Value   Text Value to Find

Search   Start Search
Next   Find Next Occurrence
Cancel   Close Search
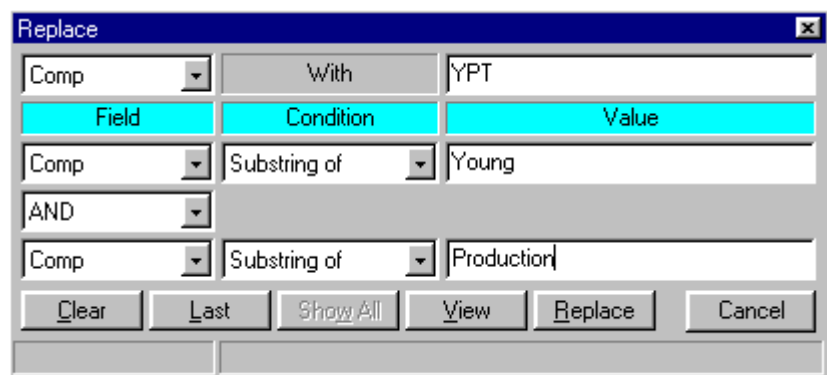
The Search function allows you to quickly and easily locate a record or group of records. To locate a record, just select the field you wish to search on and the condition, and then type in the string value you wish to find. Click on the **Search** button to locate the appropriate record. If a search is active, then you can click the **Next** button to find the next record that meets the criteria.

If Search cannot find any matching records, then a 'No Records Found !" message will appear in the status bar of the Search dialog box.

The Search dialog acts as a floating window, sitting on top of any other windows. The dialog can be moved anywhere on the screen, and is not tied to the 'desktop' area. If you minimize JFTrans, then the Search dialog will be automatically closed, and will not be re-opened when you maximize JFTrans again. If you click on the **Minimize** button on the Toolbar, or the Minimize option on the Window Menu, then the Search dialog is closed. If you open a new database file, then the Search dialog is closed along with all other open dialogs.

Search will remember its position on the screen, and the search criteria you last entered, and will write this info to the Registry for the next time you run JFTrans.

Replace

Clear   Clear Replace Criteria
Last   Restore Previous Criteria

Show All	Show All Records
View	View Affected Record(s)
Replace	Replace Field Values
Cancel	Close Replace

Replace allows you to globally replace the contents of a particular field based on a specific criteria. You can use it for example, to replace every instance of the state name NH with AZ.

The top left field is where you specify the field name whose contents you wish to change. Just click on the arrow to open the dropdown list, then click on the appropriate field name. The top right text field is where you enter the string that you want to have entered into the selected field. This text box will automatically limit the number of characters you can type in, to the limits of the selected field name.

The next section is where you can define the records that you want to modify. The use of this section is the same as Filter Records.

The **Clear** function clears the current criteria so that you can enter new conditions. The **Last** function will restore the previous conditions if you accidentally click the **Clear** button in error. **Last** will only restore the criteria values in the appropriate drop down lists and text fields. It does not execute the resulting criteria.

The **View** function enables you to preview the records that would be affected by the replace. This is handy if you want to verify that you have correctly entered the proper criteria to define the records you want to change. Just enter the conditions, and then click the **View** button. The Replace dialog box will close, and the records that match your criteria will be displayed in the grid. If the screened records are the ones you want, just click the **Replace** button to reopen the Replace dialog. From here, you can either click the **Select All** button to close the Replace dialog and restore all of the records in the grid, or you can click on **Replace** to actually replace the specified fields.

If you trust yourself to enter the correct criteria, then you can just click on the **Replace** button to execute the replace without viewing the affected records first.

The **Cancel** button will close the Replace dialog box.

Notes:

Please be careful with this function, as there is no Undo to clean up the changes you might have made in error. The lack of an Undo is based primarily on performance issues. To roll back or undo these changes would require that the entire database be saved to another file, and then copied back to undo the changes, a performance hit you could do without.

If a Filter is active when you execute the **Replace** or **View** commands, then JFTrans will ignore the filter when it determines the records that meet the Replace conditions. Replace **always** works with the complete database. If you click on **Select All** and a Filter is active, then this function will only return those records that meet the Filter conditions, and not display every record in the database.

Filter Records

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Clear	Clear Filter Criteria
Last	Restore Previous Criteria
Filter	Filter Records
Show All	Show All Records
Manage	Save and Mange Filter Setups
Cancel	Close Filter Box

The Filter function allows you to view only those specific records in the database that meet a certain criteria. When the criteria is entered and the Filter is executed, the JFTrans grid reflects the result of the filter. These results can be manipulated in any way. You can, for example, apply a filter to the database and then export only those records.

Please refer to the Setting Filters topic for specific information on how to set the filter conditions.

In the Filter dialog, the **Clear** function clears the current criteria so that you can enter new conditions. The **Last** function will restore the previous conditions if you accidentally click the **Clear** button in error.

The **Filter** button executes the filter and updates the data displayed in the JFTrans grid. If a filter is in effect, then the **Show All** button is enabled, which enables you to remove the current filter and display all of the records in the current database.

The location of the Filter dialog box is retained by JFTrans, and will be restored whenever you open it again, which allows you to place it out of the way in JFTrans.

Please be aware that JFTrans cannot **Filter** on Memo field types. If an MDB file contains Memo fields, then these field names will be excluded from the dropdown list boxes. This is a limitation of Access and SQL Queries, not JFTrans.

Setting Filters

Field	Condition	Value
Last Name ▼	Greater/Equal To ▼	wilson
AND ▼		
Salutation ▼	Equal To ▼	Mr.

In JFTrans, a Filter is basically the definition of a field name from the file data structure, a condition operator, and the value or contents you want the field to hold. When you apply a Filter, JFTrans searches through the file and looks at the specified field name in each record. If the contents of the field meets the condition that you have defined, then the record is displayed in the current view, else it is ignored. So, for example, if you select the 'Last Name' **Field**, the 'Equal To' **Condition**, and define the **Value** as 'Smith', then every record in which the contents of the 'Last Name' field is 'Equal To' 'Smith' , will be displayed.

You do not have to know the names of all the Fields, or the possible Conditions, as JFTrans provides a dropdown list on all of the filter boxes. The **Condition** statement tells JFTrans how to compare strings. Operators such as 'Greater Than' or 'Less Than' merely compare string based on the sequence of letters in the alphabet. So, for example, a string starting with the letter C is always less than a string starting with the letter H, but greater than a string starting with the letter A.

The supported **Condition** operators are:

    Equal To
    Greater/Equal To
    Less/Equal To
    Not Equal To

Greater Than
Less Than
Substring of

The first six conditions always start comparing from the beginning of a string, so if you enter a **Value** of 'JOHN', then the Filter will find 'JOHNSON' or 'JOHNSTON', but not 'UPJOHN'.

The 'Substring of' operator allows you to look for a string of characters inside a longer string. So, for example, if you used the above example and looked for 'JOHN', then the 'UPJOHN' record would be found because the letters 'JOHN' are contained within 'UPJOHN'.

The **Value** can be any string you want to search on. If you want to use a blank string, then just ignore the box entirely, and JFTrans will assume you are looking for an empty string in the specified **Field**. When entering in a string, double quote characters are disallowed, and will therefore never appear in the text box.

To make the **Filter** even more specific, you can define two **Field** / **Condition** / **Value** sets and tell JFTrans how to handle them. The two choices are **AND** and **OR**. The **AND** operator tells **Filter** that **both** sets have to exist for the record to be displayed or processed. The **OR** operator tell **Filter** than **one or the other** have to exist.

So, for example, if we look at the sample displayed in the screen shot above, every record where Last Name was Greater/Equal To 'wilson' **AND** the Salutation was Equal To 'Mr.' would display. Mr. Wilson and Mr. Zimmer would pop up in the listing, but Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Zimmer wouldn't.

If you changed the operator to **OR**, then every record with a name of 'Wilson' or greater would pop up, along with every record that contained a 'Mr.' in the Salutation field.

The best way to learn about filters is to open up a file and apply Filters with data that you are familiar with in order to see the results of various conditions and operators.

Manage Filters
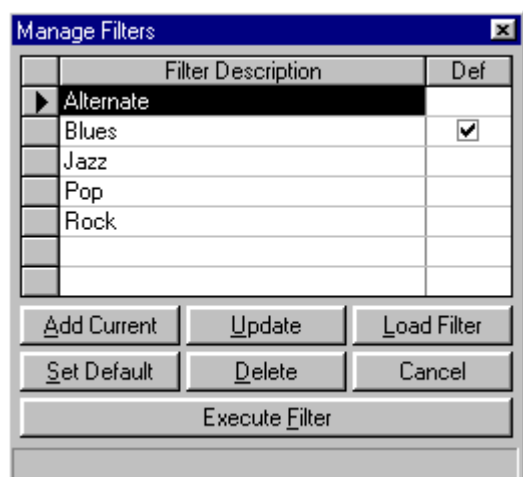
Add Current	Add Filter Setup to the Filter List
Update	Update Highlighted Filter from Setup in the Filter Dialog
Load Filter	Load Highlighted Filter into the Filter Dialog
Set Default	Set Highlighted Filter as the Loaded Default
Delete	Delete Highlighted or Selected Filter(s)
Execute Filter	Load Highlighted Filter into Filter Dialog and Execute it
Cancel	Close Manage Filters Dialog Box

The **Manage Filters** command enables you to preserve an unlimited number of filter setups in a table in the

JFTrans MDB file. This new filter table is never deleted by the import process, so any filters you save remain in the database file. **Manage Filters** also allows you to set one filter as a default for the database. Whenever the file is loaded, the Filter dialog box is automatically set to this specified default. You just have to press the **Filter** button to execute the filter.

To save a filter, just set up the fields and conditions in the Filter box and execute the filter to ensure it gives you the result you want. Then reopen the Filter dialog box and click on **Manage**. In the Manager, just click the **Add Current** button to save the filter. A new record is added to the filter database and the focus is moved to the new record. You can then type in a suitable description to replace the default name. Click **Cancel** when you are done to close the manager or execute another function. Whenever you add a new filter, JFTrans searches the filter database to ensure that you do not add a duplicate. An error message will appear on the status line if this is the case, and the record pointer will move to the existing record. Also, be aware that the filter descriptions **must** be unique as the list is automatically sorted by description and duplicates are not allowed.

To set a filter to use as the default, just highlight the filter you want to use and click the **Set Default** button. A marked checkbox will appear in the **Def** column to indicate the current default. To remove a default filter, highlight the current default filter and click the **Set Default** button to toggle it off. The checkbox in the **Def** column will disappear.

The **Delete** button will delete the current record or any records you have selected using the usual **JFTrans** methods. You can quickly select all records by clicking the intersection of the row and column titles.

To load and use a filter, just click on the filter record and click the **Load Filter** button. The Manage Filters box will close and the selected filter conditions will appear in the Filter box. You can also click on the **Execute Filter** button to load the filter into the Filter box and then run it.

You can also update an existing filter by setting up the new conditions and values in the Filter dialog and then opening Manager, highlighting the filter you want to update, and then clicking the **Update** button.

SQL Query

Clear	Clear the Query Text Box
Update	Update the Selected Query with the Content of the Entry Box
Add	Add the Current Query to the Saved List.
Delete	Delete Current Query
Show All	Show All Records in the Grid
Execute	Apply the Current Query to the Database
Cancel	Close the SQL Query Dialog Box

The SQL Query function allows you to find and organize records in the loaded database in ways not possible with the Filter command. SQL, or Structured Query Language, allows you to compose string commands that extract records from the database grouped in certain ways, or provide information about the data such as the top 10 percent of a certain field value.

The SQL Query dialog box allows you to build these query strings by selecting commands, field names, and

operators from popdown lists. Once composed and tested, these commands can be saved in the database for reuse.

Query Text Box
The top portion of the dialog box contains a text area in which you can type in the appropriate commands and field references. You can either type in the command you want or use the popdown lists just below the text box to compose the query string. You can delete the contents of the text box by clicking the **Clear** button.

Popdown Lists
The popdown lists below the text box contain, from left to right, SQL keywords, a list of all the field names in the loaded database, and a list of common operators.   This sequence follows the basic order in which you would enter a command by hand.

The SQL Keyword popdown completes a statement in the manner in which it would be most frequently used by adding the table name, operator, and spaces etc.. For example, if you click on the Select item in the list, the string 'SELECT * FROM main WHERE ' appears in the text box.. You could then go to the field and operator lists to complete the query statement. The All, Top n, and Distinct items are also preceded with the SELECT keyword. This ensures some accuracy and also eliminates some typing.

The Field Name popdown contains a list of all the fields in the loaded database. Just click on the field you want and the name will appear at the current cursor position in the query string. All field names are automatically enclosed in square brackets to avoid errors when executing the query. SQL does not allow field names with spaces in them unless they are enclosed by brackets.

The Operator popdown contains a series of test conditions and other commands that typically appear at the end of a query string.

Running a Query
Once you have entered the appropriate query string, you can run it by clicking the **Execute** button. JFTrans will apply the command to the database and show the result in the main grid. The **SQL Query** dialog box will always remain visible on top of the main JFTrans display should you need to edit and rerun the query. Please be aware that some SQL commands do not return every field in the database so you may find that some of the columns go blank when you execute the query. Also, the SQL functions in JFTrans do **not** update the column totals displayed at the bottom of the JFTrans window. For this reason, the cells in the totals window are grayed out whenever the SQL Query dialog box is open..

If there is an error in the query string, then JFTrans will report an error message in the bottom status line. If the error message is more specific about the nature of the problem, the message will be displayed in a normal error box in the center of your screen.

If you want to remove the query results from the main JFTrans window, then click the **Show All** button. The grid will repaint to display the database as it was before you ran the query. You can move back and forth between the SQL Query dialog box and the main JFTrans window with a simple mouse click.

Saving Queries
Once you have executed a query without error, you can save it in the loaded database to use at another time. Simply move to the text box below the popdown lists and type in a title to describe the query, up to 50 characters. When you are done typing, just click the **Add** button to save your query.

Recalling Queries
You can recall a previously added query by pulling down a list of previously saved queries and clicking on the one you want. This list is accessible from the same text box where you enter a query title. JFTrans will load the query into the text box for editing or execution.

If you recall a stored query and then modify it, you can save your changes back by either clicking the **Update** button to overwrite the old version with the new, or type in a new title and click the **Add** button to create a new record in the query database.

Deleting Queries

You can delete the current query by clicking the **Delete** button. Be **very** careful with this function as it does not warn you before it deletes a query record, it just goes ahead and removes the record.

Note
The SQL Query dialog box remains on your screen until you close it, to allow you to flip back and forth between all records and queried records, or edit records returned by a query and then execute a new query. When you close the SQL Query dialog box, JFTrans displays all of the records in the database, or the records returned by a Filter that may have been applied when you opened the SQL Query box. Also, JFTrans remembers the position of the SQL Query dialog and always reopens it in the last used position.

When you execute a query, JFTrans remembers the query string, even after you close the SQL Query dialog. This enables you to optionally print only those records returned by the query.

Duplicate Record

The **Duplicate Record** function copies the data in the current row to a new record at the bottom of the database. To use the function, just click on any cell in the record you want to duplicate and then select the **Duplicate Record** function on the Edit menu. **JFTrans** will add a new record to the database, copy the data from the current row to the new one, and then make the new record the current record so you can modify any of the copied data.

Edit Popups
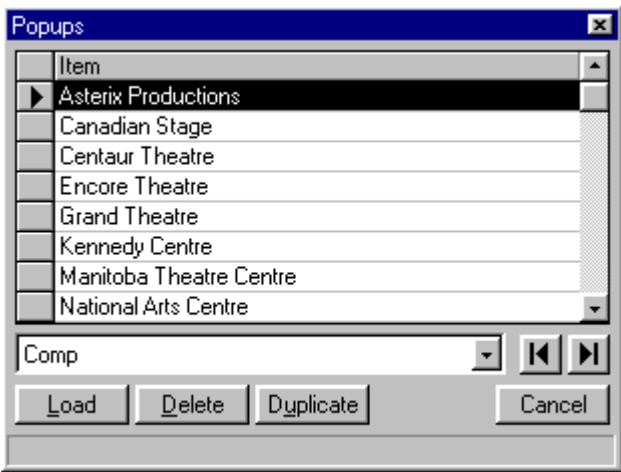
Dropdown Listbox	Select the popup (by column name) to edit
Load	Load the Popup List from Existing Data
Delete	Delete current record(s)
Duplicate Popup	Copy the current Popup List to another
Cancel	Close Popups List
First Record	Move to the first record
Last Record	Move to the last record

The Edit Popups dialog box always open to display the first popup list in the data file. Just use the dropdown list to select the list you want to edit from a list of available popups. The popups are always identified by their associated column title.

Note:

Editing the records is the same as in the main table grid, just double click on a cell to edit the contents.

Adding a new record is also the same as in the main table grid. Just move to the last record and click on the row marked with an asterisk.

You can also use the **Load** function to quickly build a popup list from the data in the associated column. When you click on the **Load** button, JFTrans scans through all of the records in your database and adds any unique value in the associated data field. It never allows duplicate entries, and also preserves the current popup list contents in case you have added items that do not actually exist in the data itself, only in the popup list. The status line at the bottom of the Edit Popup dialog box informs you of the status of the Load function and displays any error or warning messages.

The Load function will warn you if it finds more items in a database field than can fit in the list. It will copy as many values as it can until the list is full and then warn you that some items could not be added. When you edit a popup list and try to add a record past the limit, JFTrans will not allow the new item to be added and will display a warning message.

JFTrans writes the popup row contents whenever the focus shifts to another control or menu item. You **never** have to worry about consciously saving data as JFTrans does it transparently.

Note :
JFile currently supports a maximum of 100 items that can be entered into a popup list, and JFTrans enforces this limit and will not allow you to enter more items than allowed by JFile.

Duplicate Popup
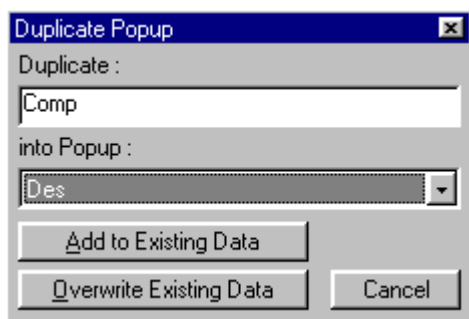
Add to Existing Data	Add Source items to popup.
Overwrite Existing Data	Clear existing items before adding new.
Cancel	Close Duplicate Popup

The **Duplicate Popup** function allows you to copy the contents of one popup list into another. To use the function, you **must** first select the popup list to be used as the source of the data in the Edit Popups dialog box.

When you open the Duplicate Popup dialog box, the name of the selected popup will appear at the top, and a list of available popup lists to copy to will appear in a dropdown listbox. Just select the popup you want to copy the items to, and click on the **Add to Existing Data** or **Overwrite Existing Data** buttons, depending on your needs.

If you click Add to Existing Data, then JFTrans will first check that the total number of items in the combined popup list do not exceed the maximum number of items allowed. If they do, then an error message will appear and the Duplicate Popup dialog will close. If they do not, then JFTrans will add the items in the source popup to the selected popup, and the dialog will close.

If you select the Overwrite Existing function, then JFTrans will first clear the selected popup list before adding the items from the source popup list.

Totals View

Sum	Avg	Var	Ba	Fa	Bm	Fm	
Auto	◄	►	6,745.60	11,185.10	125.16	245.49	

The Totals View is an optional screen element that contains the totals of every numeric field type in the open database. The displayed totals can represent the Sum, Average, or Variance of the records. The function buttons, **Sum**, **Avg**, or **Var**, are displayed in dark gray by default, and the name of the current total type is highlighted in black letters.

This view can be toggled On or Off using the **View Hide Totals** option on the Database Menu. In addition, the view can be turned On or Off at startup by toggling the **Totals On by Default** option on the Settings Tab in Preferences.

The totals are displayed in the order in which the associated field appears in the database structure, and are calculated whenever you open a database or toggle the Totals View On. By default, the width of each field is set to a value of 1250 which should be adequate for most values. You can set the display width to suit your needs by setting the **Column Width** value on the Settings Tab. The columns will resize to the selected width and the scroll bar will either adjust itself or activate should the new widths exceed the width of the JFTrans window. The scroll bar arrows and slider always move the displayed totals left or right by one cell.

The Totals function can work somewhat like a spreadsheet in that the totals can be automatically recalculated whenever you edit a numeric type field, delete records, or add a new record. This **Auto Calc** function is turned on whenever JFTrans starts up. When on, JFTrans will recalculate the totals whenever you edit a record and then move to another one. This function does **not** recalculate whenever you edit a specific cell, as the grid does not actually write your changes back into the database until you move off the record. You can turn this Auto Calc function on or off by clicking on the **Auto** button.

The Totals function always totals the data that is currently displayed in the grid. This allows you to Filter on a specific criteria and see the totals of the resulting data set.

You can also use the following keyboard shortcuts to recalculate the totals or toggle the Auto Calc mode:

Alt T   Auto Calc On / Off
Alt S   Sum
Alt G   Average
Alt V   Variance

Working with Files

Open MDB File
Import PDB File
Update PDB File
Modify Field Types
Create New File
Create from Access
Import from Template
Save MDB As
Close MDB File
Export MDB File
Install PDB File - Single
Install PDB File – Multiple
Batch Install PDB Files
Compact MDB File
Modify Database
JFile Settings
Converter Errors

Open MDB File

The Open MDB command displays a standard Windows file dialog box from which you can select the MDB file you want to open. You can either double click on the filename or select the file and click on the **Open** button. By default, JFTrans always displays the contents of the Data directory you specified in Preferences.

JFTrans will open the MDB file and rearrange the grid according to the grid layout for the specific file. Any popup lists will be loaded and assigned to the appropriate columns.

You can also load an MDB file directly from the command line by using the Windows **Run** command or by setting up an icon for the MDB file. To setup an icon, simply create a shortcut for JFTrans where ever you want it on your desktop, and then edit the shortcut to include the file name in the Target field, after the path to the JFTrans executable. If the MDB file is on a path with a long filename that includes spaces, wrap the full path and filename in double quotes to avoid loading errors. Setting up icons is the easiest way to get quick access to those database files that you load frequently.

Import PDB File

The Import PDB File function is the first step in creating an Access MDB file from your Pilot data. Before you rush in, you should consider whether you will need to modify field names or types in the resulting Access file. The JFTrans defaults should work for most purposes unless your JFile database contains string that are longer than 250 characters.

If this is the case, you must enable the **Modify Field Types** option first, either as the default in Preferences, or by toggling on the **Modify Fields** option on the Options Menu. This is necessary as JFTrans will truncate a long field to 250 characters unless you can change the field type from a text to a memo type.

Once this is decided and the option is set appropriately, you can click on the **Import** button on the toolbar, or the **Import PDB File** option on the File Menu. A standard Windows file dialog box will open displaying all of the PDB files in your Pilot BACKUP directory. You can change the path to another directory should you wish. Just double click on the JFile PDB file you want to import, or select it and click on the **Open** button. JFTrans verifies that the selected file is indeed a JFile database, and will display an error message if it is not.

JFTrans will then process the database and display its' progress in the right panel of the status line. If the Modify

Fields option is toggled On, then the Modify Field Types dialog box will appear, allowing you to change the field types and names used in the resulting Access file. If your file contains long strings over 250 characters, then please view this link before proceeding.

If the Modify Fields is turned Off, then JFTrans will just continue to process your JFile database and then display the result in the grid. From here you can view or edit the data as you please.

If JFTrans discovers values that will not fit into the specified field types, then it will display a message identifying the field name, and suggest the appropriate Access field type to use. In this instance, you will have to turn the Modify Fields option On if it is not already, and import the data file again. When the Modify Fields dialog box appears, just change the problem field to the suggested type. JFTrans cannot do this for you automatically.

Note :

JFTrans checks for JFile format conflicts when importing a PDB file so that you do not accidentally change a format in error. If you have an MDB file in 4.x format and try to import an older 3.x version of the associated PDB file, then JFTrans will warn you that you will change the format of the MDB file to that of the PDB file by continuing to import the PDB. This format checking happens in both directions, 4.x to 3.x format and 3.x to 4.x.

If you want to import the file and change the format at the same time, then JFTrans will set the Preserve Grid Format option off, and disable it and the Append to File option in the Update PDB File dialog box to ensure that the format change is managed correctly.

Update PDB File

If you have already created an Access MDB file from a JFile database, then the next time you go to Import the same PDB file, the following option dialog box appears, which allows you to set how the PDB data will be managed by JFTrans.
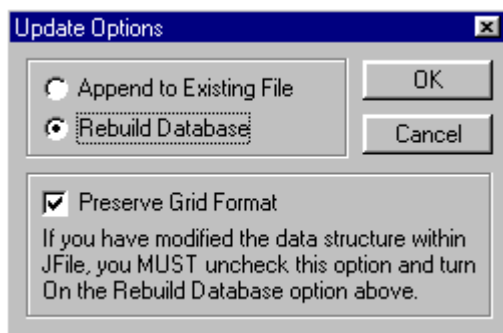
Append to Existing File
This option tells JFTrans to add the data to that which already exists in the MDB file. JFTrans will simply add the data without modifying any of the tables. Append mode does, however, rebuild the Popup data tables, on the assumption that the items will stay fairly constant and you would not want to have any duplicate entries in a popup list. The **Preserve Grid Format** option discussed below is always toggled On and then the option is disabled.

Rebuild Database
This option tells JFTrans to dump the current contents of the MDB file and then load in the data from the JFile PDB database.

Preserve Grid Format
This option is very important, as it tells JFTrans to keep all of the column Resizing and grid layout details you may have setup with the previous data. By default, this option is always checked (On) so that the new data will appear in the same visual manner as the old. If the option is unchecked (Off), then JFTrans will delete the internal MDB tables and rebuild them as part of the import.

This option also affects how the Modify Field Types function works. If the **Modify Fields** option is toggled On and the **Preserve Grid Format** option is unchecked (Off), then the **Modify Field Types** dialog box will appear when you click **OK** to import the data. This gives you the chance to change the Access field names and types

If the **Preserve Grid Format** option is checked (On), then the **Modify Field Types** dialog box will never appear, regardless of the option setting.

If you want to cancel the update process, then just click the **Cancel** button, or click **OK** to continue with the update.

If any type of format conflict between JFile 3.x and 4.x results from importing the PDB file, JFTrans will display an appropriate message and set the **Preserve Grid Format** option off and disable the function, and also disable the **Append to Existing File** option to ensure that the format change is managed correctly.

Modify Field Types

Modify Fields					
	JFile		Access		Display
Col	Type	Name	Type	Width	
0	String	Prod	Text	2160	
1	Popup	Comp	Text	1604	
2	Popup	Dir	Text	1604	
3	Popup	Des	Text	1604	
4	Date	Reh	Date	794	
5	Date	Setup	Date	794	
6	Date	Hang	Date	794	

Accept Discard Cancel

Accept Write the Changes and Close the Dialog Box
Discard Discard any Changes and Continue Import
Cancel Discard any Changes and Close the Dialog Box

The Modify Field Types dialog box appears whenever you import a PDB file and the Modify Fields option is toggled On, and you choose to rebuild the database and discard the grid format.

The display is basically a grid that displays the Column number, the JFile Field Type as identified from the PDB file, along with the field name and type used in the Access MDB file, and the display width of the field on the main grid.

The grid columns are organized under the titles above the grid. The **Col** number is a zero based reference to the column in which a field is displayed on the grid. The **Type** column under JFile displays the field type used by JFile. These two columns cannot be edited, but you can easily edit the other values to suit your needs.

Under the Access title, the **Name** column displays the name of the field in the Access MDB file and the **Type** column displays the Access data type selected for a particular field. The **Type** column is a dropdown list from which you can select the Access data type you require for a particular field. Please remember that any strings longer than 250 characters **must** be set as a Memo type. The types displayed in a dropdown list are always based on the current JFile type, in order to eliminate problems with mismatched data types.

Under the Display title, the **Width** column displays the current width of the column in the grid. This value can be edited, but it is actually easier to just size the column directly in the grid with a mouse.

When the fields are set as you want, just click the **Accept** button to write the changes, or click **Discard** to undo any changes you have made. JFTrans will then continue with the PDB import. If you want to abort the import

entirely, then just click the **Cancel** button.

JFTrans writes your changes to the Grid table in the MDB file, and then uses the contents of this table to translate PDB file types and names into Access MDB types and names whenever the MDB file is opened or the data is imported into the existing MDB file.

Create New File

Up	Move Current Field Up
Down	Move Current Field Down
Insert	Insert New Field
Delete	Delete Current Field
Ac to Jf	Copy Access Field Names to JFile Field Names
Jf to Ac	Copy JFile Field Names to Access Field Names
Build	Build New MDB File
Cancel	Close Create New Box

The **Create New File** function allows you to define a field structure for an Access MDB file and the associated PDB file, and then builds a new MDB file to your specification. The new file is automatically setup for Export or Installation to a PDB file for use with JFile on your Pilot.

The first thing to do to create a new file is to define the field structure. When the dialog box opens, a field record is created and the highlight is on the first Access field name in the grid. Just type in a name for the first field and then click on the Access type column. You will notice that JFTrans automatically duplicates the Access field name in the JFile field name column. Select an Access field type by opening the dropdown list and selecting the type you want. You **must** select the field type from the list; you cannot just enter in a type name. Select the type and then click on the Access width column.

You will notice that JFTrans automatically matches the JFile field type to the Access equivalent. In the width column, enter in the Access field length. You **only** have to enter in the length for **Text** type fields. Any of the numeric or date types do not require a width specification as Access sets them to internal defaults automatically. When you move off of the Access width column, JFTrans automatically enters a width value into the JFile width column. In the case of text / string types, this value will be double the width entered in the Access width. In the case of any other type, JFTrans sets the JFile width to a reasonable default value that you can edit if required. The only exceptions are the JFile Popup type, which has no equivalent in Access, and a field specified as an Access Memo type. You **must** enter Popup and Memo type widths manually. If a JFile width is greater than 160, it will be changed back to 160 automatically, as this is the maximum value allowed in JFile.

Now that the first field is defined, just click on the field name column on the last row of the grid. As soon as you type in a field name, JFTrans creates a new field record. JFTrans checks the previous field record for errors or omissions whenever you move down to the last row to add a new field, highlights the offending cell, and displays an error message if problems are found.

Just complete the rest of the field definition table as you want it. Should you add a field and then change your mind, just select any cell in the field record and click the **Delete** button. You will be prompted to delete the current field record. Just click **Yes** to delete the field, or **No** to escape and cancel. To insert a new field, just select the field below the new field and click the **Insert** button. JFTrans will insert a new blank record above this field, ready for editing. You can move any field up or down by selecting any cell of the record you want to move and then clicking the **Up** or **Down** arrow button. The **Alt-U** and **Alt-W** key combinations also activate the **Up** and **Down** buttons for those that prefer to use the keyboard.

Below the field grid, you will see options that pertain to the JFile PDB file that would be created from the new MDB file. These options are the same as those found on the JFile Settings box, and are set to reasonable default setting that you can edit if you wish. One option that is not set to a default is the title of the database as it appears in JFile. Enter in a title you want and then click **Build** to construct the new file. Also, you can check off the **Encrypt Database** option if you want the new Access MDB file to be encrypted. Encrypted files require a password to open them.

Build first checks the field definitions for duplicate or illegal entries and will warn you if it finds something wrong. If the definitions are valid, then a standard Windows file dialog box will open, where you can enter the file name for the new MDB file. If you enter in or select an existing filename, then JFTrans will prompt you before overwriting it. Also, if there is an associated layout file for an existing MDB file, then **Build** will delete it from the list of layouts.

When the build is complete, JFTrans will load the new MDB file into the grid ready for editing. From here, you can Export or Install a PDB file from the new MDB file as normal.

Create from Access

The **Create from Access** function allows you to build a new MDB / PDB file combination from an existing Access file. When you click the function, a standard Windows file dialog box opens. Just find and open the existing Access MDB file you want to load into JFTrans.
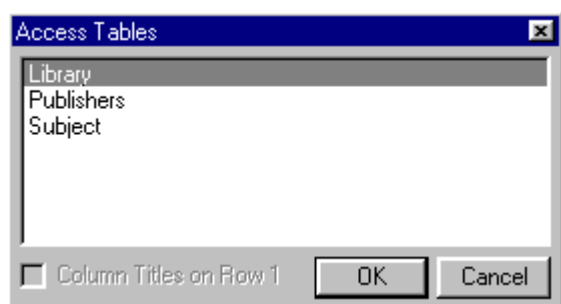
JFTrans will then display a list of the tables contained in the Access file, as illustrated above. Just highlight the table you want to use and then click **OK**.
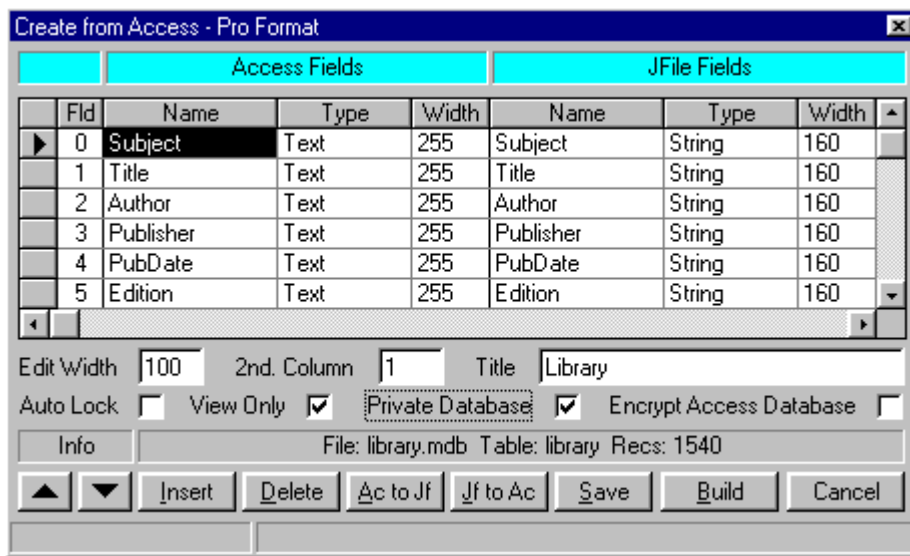
JFTrans will then load the data structure into a dialog box that is the same as the Create New File function. The only difference is that JFTrans will display the full data structure of the existing Access file on the left, and will automatically create a matching JFile data structure on the right, instead of the typical empty structure.

Just modify the data structure as you want, if you do not like the defaults. Please make sure that the database does not contain more than the maximum number of fields supported by your version of JFile, 20 fields, field 19 in the grid for JFile 3.xx and 50 fields, field 49 in the grid for JFile 4.x. You can use the **Delete** function to remove any fields you do not need. When the structure is as you would like it, click the **Save** button to save the current definitions into a template file, then click the **Build** button.

If you do not save a template file, then you will be prompted to do so when you click the **Build** button. It is not required that you save a template before building the new MDB / PDB file. It will however be very useful to you if you ever want to update the JFTrans MDB file from the original Access file.

JFTrans will then build the new MDB file based on the specified structure, and then copy the data from the existing Access file into the new MDB file. You now have a JFTrans MDB file that contains the same data as the selected table in the existing Access file.

Create from Excel

The **Create from Excel** function allows you to build a new MDB / PDB file combination from an existing Excel worksheet. When you click the function, a standard Windows file dialog box opens. Just find and open the existing Excel XLS file you want to load into JFTrans.
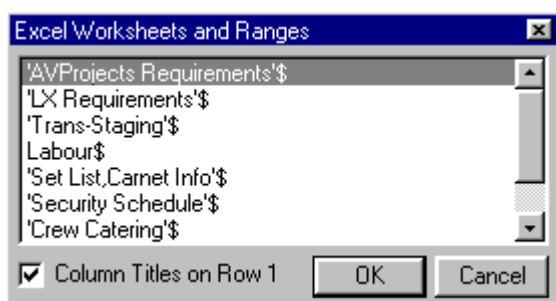
JFTrans will then display a list of the worksheets contained in the Excel file, as illustrated above. Just highlight the table you want to use and then click **OK**. If the worksheet does not contain column titles on row 1, then uncheck the **Column Titles on Row 1** option.

JFTrans will then load the data structure into a dialog box that is the same as the Create New File function. The only difference is that JFTrans will display the full data structure of the Excel worksheet on the left, and will automatically create a matching JFile data structure on the right, instead of the typical empty structure.

If you unchecked the **Column Titles on Row 1** option when selecting the worksheet, then JFTrans will set the field names to the default values, Field 0, Field 1and so on as it cannot determine the actual field names from the column titles. More information about column titles can be found in the JFTrans & Excel topic.

Just modify the data structure as you want, if you do not like the defaults. Please make sure that the database does not contain more than the maximum number of fields supported by your version of JFile, 20 fields, field 19 in the grid for JFile 3.xx and 50 fields, field 49 in the grid for JFile 4.x. You can use the **Delete** function to remove any fields you do not need.

When the structure is as you would like it, enter a title for the JFile database and set the other JFile settings to your preference, and then click the **Save** button to save the current definitions into a template file, then click the **Build** button.

If you do not save a template file, then you will be prompted to do so when you click the **Build** button. It is not required that you save a template before building the new MDB / PDB file. It will however be very useful to you if you ever want to update the JFTrans MDB file from the original Excel worksheet.

JFTrans will then build the new MDB file based on the specified structure, and then copy the data from the existing Excel worksheet into the new MDB file. You now have a JFTrans MDB file that contains the same data as the selected worksheet in the existing Excel file.

Select Format

The Select Format box simply allows you to specify the format of the PDB file you want to create. JFTrans can make databases in either JFile 3.x format or in the newer JFile 4.x format.

Import from Template

The **Import from Template** function allows you to automatically re-import data from the external Access file or Excel worksheet that was used to create the current MDB / PDB file originally. If you create a file from an Access table or Excel worksheet, you can save a template of the current setup and data sources. This template is typically saved into a file with a .JTM extension, in your JFTrans directory.

To re-import the data from the original data source, just open its associated MDB / PDB file in JFTrans, and then click on the **Import from Template** option on the Database menu. A standard Windows file dialog box will open and display all of the available template files. Just highlight the associated template and click **Open** to load it.

When you load a template that references an Access file, JFTrans carefully checks to make sure that the data structure defined in the loaded MDB file is supported by the template. It also checks that the template supports the fields in the Access table you want to load from. The import cannot continue if the field matching is incorrect in any way, and an error message will appear that contains an appropriate message, and the name of the field that could not be reconciled.

When you load a template that references an Excel worksheet, JFTrans carefully checks to make sure that the data structure defined in the loaded MDB file is supported by the template. It also checks that the column titles on row one are supported by the template. If the worksheet does not have titles on the first row then it bypasses this test.

	Fld	Name	Type	Width	Name	Type	Width	
▶	0	Subj	Text	255	Subj	String	160	
	1	Title	Text	255	Title	String	160	
	2	Author	Text	255	Author	String	160	
	3	Pub	Text	255	Pub	String	160	
	4	Date	Text	255	Date	String	160	
	5	Ed	Text	255	Ed	String	160	

Import from Template - Pro Format dialog box, showing Access Fields and JFile Fields. Edit Width: 100, 2nd. Column: 1, Title: JFile. Auto Lock, View Only, Private Database, Encrypt Access Database checkboxes. Info. Excel Worksheet: library$ Titles: Column Titles. Import / Cancel buttons. Data Source: f:\jftrans\data\dmp\jfile.xls

The above dialog box will open and display all of the settings that were saved into the template when the current MDB / PDB file was originally created. You cannot edit or modify these settings. Just click on the **Import** button, and JFTrans will open the Access table or Excel worksheet and load its records into the 'Main' table in the current JFTrans MDB file. Any other tables in the JFTrans database will be unaffected by the import.

Please understand that a template is associated with a specific table in a specific Access file or worksheet in an Excel XLS file. If the data source has been copied somewhere else or the internal table or worksheet no longer exists, then you will not be able to use the template. In this case, JFTrans will generate an error message and not allow you to import the data. In this instance, you will have to create a new database from scratch using the Import PDB File or Create functions.

Save MDB As

The Save MDB As function merely copies the currently loaded MDB file to a new filename. This can be useful if you want to modify a filename on the Pilot, because in JFTrans, the MDB file always has the same name as the PDB file used to create it.

This function just opens a standard Window Save dialog box where you can specify the path and new filename. This function does allow you to overwrite an existing file with the same filename, a new filename must be entered, or a different path must be chosen.

Close MDB File

The **Close MDB File** option simply dumps the currently loaded data and clears the grid. This can be useful if you want to keep **JFTrans** on your desktop, yet unload the MDB file in case of any kind of system error that could damage the data.

Export MDB File
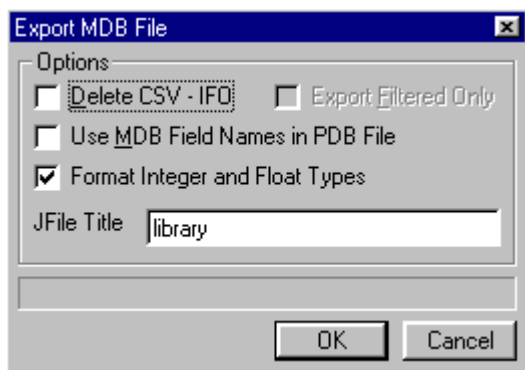
The Export PDB function allows you to write out a new PDB file for use on the Pilot. The resulting PDB file is **not** installed automatically with the your next HotSync. The new file is written out to the Export directory you have specified in Preferences, and the created IFO and CSV files are stored in the your specified Data directory.

Delete CSV - IFO
This option tells JFTrans to remove the resulting IFO and CSV files after the MDB data has been exported, in order to minimize the disk space in your Data directory.

Use MDB Field Names in PDB File
This option tells JFTrans to use the modified field names in the Access MDB file, instead of the original field names from the JFile PDB file.

Export Filtered Only
If the database is currently filtered, then this option will be enabled. It allows you to export only the filtered records contained in the current grid view. This is useful if you only want a subset of records written back for use on the Pilot.

Format Integer and Float Types
This option tells JFTrans to write out any integer or floating type numbers in the same format as they are currently displayed in the grid. This is very useful when a database contains currency values for example, in that the trailing zero or a separator character will be included automatically when the value is written out to the PDB file. This option always defaults to the default value set in Preferences, but can be toggled on or off for the current Export.

JFile Title
This box allows you to enter the title of the database that will appear in the database list in JFile. JFTrans associates a title with a specific MDB file and remembers the title whenever you Export the data.

When the option are set as you want, just click the **OK** button to export the data. If you change your mind, just click on **Cancel** to abort the Export operation.

If the converter is unable to write out the PDB file for some reason, then JFTrans will open a text box that displays the error messages from the converter.

Please see the Converter Errors topic for more information.

Install PDB File - Single
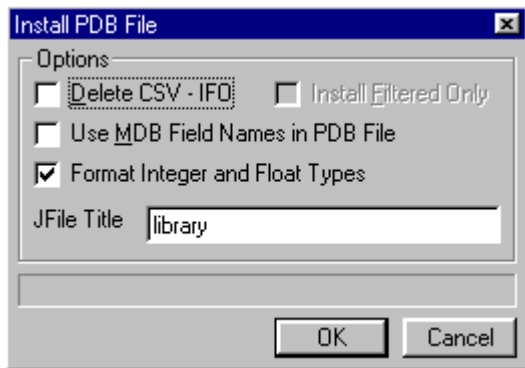
The single user Install PDB function allows you to write out a new PDB file for use on the Pilot. The resulting PDB file is installed automatically with the your next HotSync. The new file is written out to the Export directory you have specified in Preferences, and the created IFO and CSV files are stored in the your specified Data directory.

Delete CSV - IFO
This option tells JFTrans to remove the resulting IFO and CSV files after the MDB data has been exported and installed, in order to minimize the disk space in your Data directory.

Use MDB Field Names in PDB File
This option tells JFTrans to use the modified field names in the Access MDB file, instead of the original field names from the JFile PDB file.

Install Filtered Only
If the database is currently filtered, then this option will be enabled. It allows you to install only the filtered records contained in the current grid view. This is useful if you only want a subset of records written back for use on the Pilot.

Format Integer and Float Types
This option tells JFTrans to write out any integer or floating type numbers in the same format as they are currently displayed in the grid. This is very useful when a database contains currency values for example, in that the trailing zero or a separator character will be included automatically when the value is written out to the PDB file. This option always defaults to the default value set in Preferences, but can be toggled on or off for the current Install.

JFile Title
This box allows you to enter the title of the database that will appear in the database list in JFile. JFTrans associates a title with a specific MDB file and remembers the title whenever you Install the data.

When the option are set as you want, just click the **OK** button to install the data. If you change your mind, just click on **Cancel** to abort the Install operation.

If you click **OK**, then the new PDB file is created in the Export directory, and is loaded automatically into the Pilot Install Utility. The file will then be transferred to your Pilot with the next HotSync.

Install PDB File - Multiple
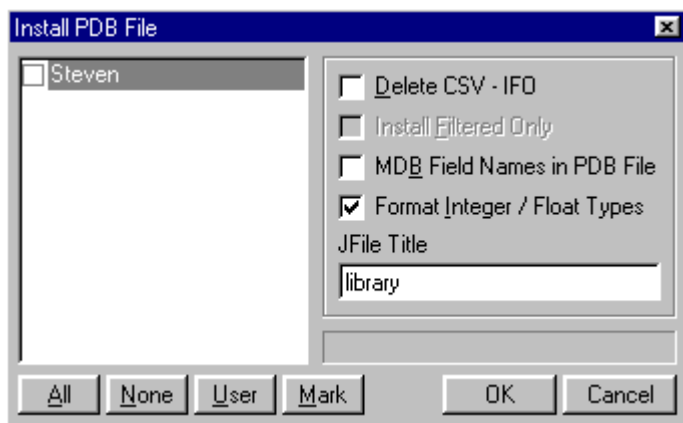
The multiple user Install PDB function allows you to write out a new PDB file for use on the Pilot. The PDB file can be installed to a selected user or users, or to all users. The new file is written out to the Export directory you have specified in Preferences, and the created IFO and CSV files are stored in the your specified Data directory.

Select Users
The List Box contains a list of all of the users setup under a single installation of the Pilot Desktop. You can select a single user by just clicking on the appropriate checkbox, or you can select multiple users by using the Ctrl-Click method used by Windows Explorer and most other Windows applications. In addition, the function buttons below the list can also be used.

All	Select All Users
None	Clear all Selected Users
Current	Select Current User
Mark	Toggle Checkmark of Current User

Delete CSV - IFO
This option tells JFTrans to remove the resulting IFO and CSV files after the MDB data has been exported and installed, in order to minimize the disk space in your Data directory.

Use MDB Field Names in PDB File
This option tells JFTrans to use the modified field names in the Access MDB file, instead of the original field names from the JFile PDB file.

Install Filtered Only
If the database is currently filtered, then this option will be enabled. It allows you to install only the filtered records contained in the current grid view. This is useful if you only want a subset of records written back for use on the Pilot.

Format Integer and Float Types
This option tells JFTrans to write out any integer or floating type numbers in the same format as they are currently displayed in the grid. This is very useful when a database contains currency values for example, in that the trailing zero or a separator character will be included automatically when the value is written out to the PDB file. This option always defaults to the default value set in Preferences, but can be toggled on or off for the current Install.

JFile Title
This box allows you to enter the title of the database that will appear in the database list in JFile. JFTrans associates a title with a specific MDB file and remembers the title whenever you Install the data.

When the option are set as you want, just click the **OK** button to install the data. If you change your mind, just

click on **Cancel** to abort the Install operation. If you have selected multiple users, then JFTrans will copy the new PDB to the INSTALL directory of each specified user, and enable HotSync to install the new file the next time each particular user hotsyncs their Pilot.

If you click **OK**, then the new PDB file is created in the Export directory, and is loaded automatically into the Pilot Install Utility. The file will then be transferred to your Pilot with the next HotSync.

Batch Install PDB Files
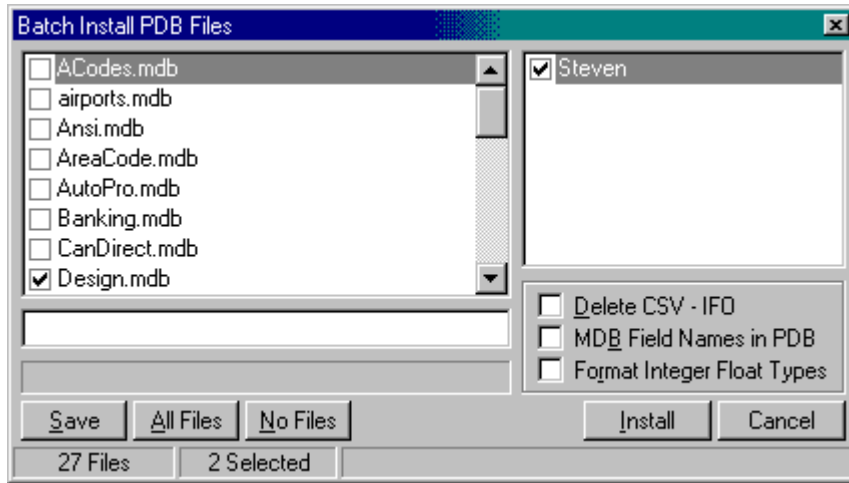
Save	Save selected databases as the default
All Files	Tag all databases for installation
No Files	Remove all tags from the databases
All Users	Select all users
No Users	Unselect all users
Install	Install all tagged databases
Cancel	Close the Batch Install window

The batch installer allows you quickly install a set of PDB files to the Pilot without having to open each MDB file individually.

The dialog box contains two lists. The left one displays all of the MDB files in your DATA directory. By default, any databases you selected in the Database View are also selected in this list when the Batch Installer is opened. The list on the right displays all users in a multi user JFTrans configuration. If the Support Multiple Users option in Preferences is not selected, then this user list will only display your name with a marked checkbox beside it, and the **All User** and **No User** buttons will not appear. If multi user support is enabled, then all of the installed users are displayed in the list, and those users that have been previously selected to get a copy of a newly installed PDB file are also selected here.

Below the user list is a set of options. These are the same as in every other install or export box, however the Filter option is missing. A filter can only be applied to a loaded file, and the filter definition is not recorded in the MDB itself. Because the batch installer can only use the data in the MDB, it cannot apply a filter to an batch installed PDB file.

Delete CSV - IFO
This option tells JFTrans to remove the resulting IFO and CSV files after the MDB data has been exported and installed, in order to minimize the disk space in your Data directory.

MDB Field Names in PDB
This option tells JFTrans to use the modified field names in the Access MDB file, instead of the original field

names from the JFile PDB file.

Format Integer Float Types
This option tells JFTrans to write out any integer or floating type numbers in the same format as they are currently displayed in the grid. This is very useful when a database contains currency values for example, in that the trailing zero or a separator character will be included automatically when the value is written out to the PDB file. This option always defaults to the default value set in Preferences, but can be toggled on or off for the current Install.

To run a batch, simply scroll through the database list and make sure that the databases you want to include are checked off. If you want to retain the selections as a new default, use the **Save** function. Once the databases are selected, click the **Install** button to build and install the PDB files. The batch install will display the name of the MDB file and also a progress bar illustrating the number of records written. The processing just cycles through the selected databases, installing each in turn. Batch does not run the Palm Install tool, but writes the PDB files to the Palm\User\Install directory and informs the hotsync conduit that they are ready and waiting for the next hotsync.

If any errors are encountered with an install, the error boxes popup on top of the batch display. When you acknowledge an error, the current PDB file is suspended and processing continues with the next MDB file. Batch does not record any results to a log file, so if you have a problem with one particular MDB, take note of the problem, let Batch continue, and then open the problem MDB file in JFTrans normally to fix the errors.

Caution :

Batch Install pays no attention to a file that may be open at the time. You can run batch on top of an open file, or when JFTrans first starts. Because of this, there is one implication you should be aware of. Certain functions like **Auto Number** for example, update the MDB only when the database is closed. If you try to batch install a file that is also open at the time, this data will not get updated before the PDB is installed, as Batch reads the copy of the MDB on your hard drive. If a loaded file contains Auto Number fields, or you make changes to the structure of the database, then use the **Close MDB File** function **before** running batch, to ensure that the correct data is written out.

Compact MDB File

The Compact MDB File function packs the database and gets rid of dead records etc.. It also makes any required repairs to the database. The original .MDB file is saved under an .MD_ extension, and a new compacted file is created with the original filename and extension. The original and the new file sizes are displayed in the dialog box. The Compact function should be used after major editing or deletions, to minimize the file size etc., but is not required.

It any errors are encountered in processing, then Compact traps these errors in the data file. If any errors are found, then the dialog box expands to display a grid that lists the error number and message, and the table name where the error was found, as illustrated below. If errors are found, then the original file that was renamed with an MD_ extension is automatically restored.

Notes:

When run, the Compact MDB File functions take a 'snapshot' of the open table, and its active query and sort states. When you run a function that has to shut down the current file, JFTrans closes the databases, clears any active controls that are loaded with data, and then runs the function. Any open dialog box or grid remains on your screen. When the function is complete, JFTrans Reinitializes the data sources and controls in the open dialog or grid, leaving you back where you started.

Modify Database

Up	Move Field Up One Record
Down	Move Field Down One Record
Insert	Insert New Field Above Current Field
Delete	Delete Current Field
Ac to Jf	Copy Access Field Names to JFile Field Names
Jf to Ac	Copy JFile Field Names to Access Field Names
Modify	Modify the Database Structures
Cancel	Cancel and Close Dialog Box

The **Modify Database** function allows you to modify the field structure of the current Access MDB file and associated PDB file. When the dialog box opens, the grid contains the current structure of the MDB and its associated PDB file. From here, you can easily edit the fieldnames or change their types etc.

If you add a new field, you will notice that JFTrans automatically duplicates the Access field name in the JFile field name column. To change a type for a particular field, just select the type you want from the popdown list. JFTrans automatically matches the JFile field type to the Access equivalent. In the width column, enter in the Access field length. You **only** have to enter in the length for **Text** type fields. Any of the numeric or date types do not require a width specification as Access sets them to internal defaults automatically. When you move off of the Access width column, JFTrans automatically enters a width value into the JFile width column. In the case of text / string types, this value will be double the width entered in the Access width. In the case of any other type, JFTrans sets the JFile width to a reasonable default value that you can edit if required. The only exceptions are the JFile Popup type, which has no equivalent in Access, and a field specified as an Access Memo type. You **must** enter Popup and Memo type widths manually. If a JFile width is greater than 160, it will be changed back to 160 automatically, as this is the maximum value allowed in JFile.

Should you add a field and then change your mind, just select any cell in the field record and click the **Delete** button. You will be prompted to delete the current field record. Just click **Yes** to delete the field, or **No** to escape and cancel. To insert a new field, just select the field below the new field and click the **Insert** button. JFTrans will insert a new blank record above this field, ready for editing. You can move any field up or down by selecting any cell of the record you want to move and then clicking the **Up** or **Down** arrow button. The **Alt-U** and **Alt-W** key combinations also activate the **Up** and **Down** buttons for those that prefer to use the keyboard.

Modify first checks the field definitions for duplicate or illegal entries and will warn you if it finds something wrong. If the definitions are valid, then JFTrans modifies the current file structure. It does this by first renaming the current 'Main' table to another name and then creating a new 'Main' table based on the defined database structure. It then copies the records from the renamed table into the new 'Main' table. When the copy is

complete and successful, it deletes the renamed table from the database file. It will then load the new 'Main' table into the grid for editing, and close the Modify Database dialog box.

If you do **not** modify the Access field information, then JFTrans will only update the JFile structure changes. It will not copy the 'Main' table as outlined above. The **Up**, **Down**, **Insert**, **Delete**, and **Ac to Jf** functions always force JFTrans to update the 'Main' table as discussed above.

Also, if you have moved columns in the data grid, then the column sequence will revert back to the same order as the fields in the database whenever you execute the **Modify** function.

Database View

JFTrans automatically builds a database in your JFTRANS directory that tracks the MDB files in your DATA directory. This database is maintained internally and requires no actions on your part. If you add or remove MDB files, the records in this database are automatically modified, added to, or deleted as required.

Install All	Tag all databases for installation
Install None	Remove all tags from the databases
Delete Database	Delete current or selected databases
Default Column	Restore default column widths
Toggle Highlight	Toggle alternating row highlight On / Off
First Record	Move to the first record
Last Record	Move to the last record
Close	Close the Database View window

Database View is a window into this new data file, and it displays the files name, size, and current date and time of each MDB file. In addition, it also displays the date and time stamp when you last imported to the MDB, or installed a PDB file from JFTrans. This allows you to track the age of the file, or compare MDBs across other systems. For instance, I use a notebook when away from home and always sync my JFTrans databases from my desktop to my notebook before I go. I sync the database file also so I can see at a glance exactly what got transferred over and the activity on these databases.
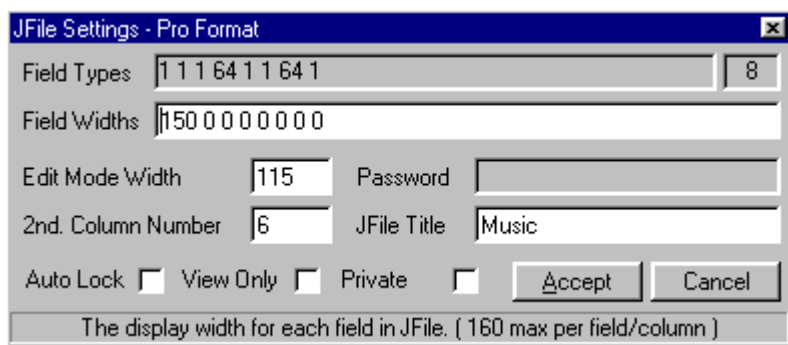
The Database View window can be resized to suit your tastes, and you can also resize every column except for the Install column. Any changes you make are recorded when the View window is closed. You can also modify

the date and time display format by going to the Formats Tab in Preferences, where you will see a pulldown list of display options.

The Install column is used to tag databases for the new batch installer. Just select the appropriate record by clicking on it, then click on the checkmark box to toggle its status. The databases selected here form the default set of databases that are installed to the Pilot when the Batch Installer is run. If you frequently edit a certain group of MDB files, select them here as defaults for batch installation.

The **Delete Database** function allows you to quickly dump unwanted .MDB files and their associated .IFO and .CSV files, should they be found in the directory. The Delete function also deletes any backup copies with the .MD_ extension. You can select multiple files for deletion by holding down the **Ctrl** key and clicking the record selector on the extreme left. Each selected record will appear in the Selected colour, bright white on red by default. The Delete function cannot delete a database that is currently loaded into JFTrans. To delete it, you must close it first.

JFile Settings

```
JFile Settings - Pro Format                                    [x]
Field Types   |1 1 1 64 1 1 64 1                           |  | 8 |
Field Widths  |150 0 0 0 0 0 0 0                                 |
Edit Mode Width   | 115 |      Password  |                        |
2nd. Column Number | 6 |      JFile Title  | Music                |
Auto Lock  [ ]  View Only  [ ]  Private  [ ]   | Accept |  | Cancel |
         The display width for each field in JFile. ( 160 max per field/column )
```

Accept	Write the Changes and Close the Dialog Box
Cancel	Discard any Changes and Close the Dialog Box

The JFile Settings dialog allows you to modify some of the parameters that define a JFile database structure and other options, and are written to the header lines in an IFO file when the MDB file is Exported or Installed.

Field Types
This heading just displays the JFile field type assigned to each field in sequence. These values cannot be edited in JFTrans. The values represent :

1 - String
2 - Boolean
4 - Date
8 - Integer
16 - Float
32 - Time
64 - Popup List

The small box at the end of the Field Type display just shows the number of fields in the current database structure.

Field Widths
This heading just displays the JFile display widths that are used in JFile's column database view. The entries must be separated by a space, and must be between 0 and 160.

Edit Mode Width
Contains the width of the 'data' field (in pixels) for the editing view of the database (should be in the 20 to 140 range)

2nd. Column Number
Contains which column is displayed next to the 'non-movable' first column in the JFile database view, in the range of 1 to 19, where 0 equals first field, 1 equals second field, etc.

Auto Lock Status
Contains a 1 if the database has its Auto-Lock on App Exit option On, or a 0 if it does not have this feature activated. Auto-Lock automatically returns you to the Main view of JFile if a password has been set. Normally, JFile tries to return you to the last position you were at in the database should you leave JFile and then return. If you do this with a password protected database, you will not be asked the password, and will go instantly to the last position. With AutoLock set to 1, you will automatically return to the main screen if you leave the JFile application, and the password will need to be reentered in order to access the password protected database.

Password
Contains the word 'none' (without quotes) if no password, or a password 10 characters maximum.

JFile Title
This box allows you to enter the title of the database that will appear in the database list in JFile. JFTrans associates a title with a specific MDB file and remembers this title whenever you Export or Install the data.

When the option are set as you want, just click on the **Accept** button to write the changes. If you change your mind, just click on **Cancel** to discard any edits.

Please note that JFTrans error checks the contents of the various text boxes whenever you leave one edit field to move to another. If the field you were editing contains invalid data, then JFTrans corrects the value if possible and displays a message on the lower status line. In this instance, the **Accept** button will be disabled until the value is correct. This ensures that the parameters that get passed to the converter do not generate error messages when the PDB file is built.

Convert PDB File
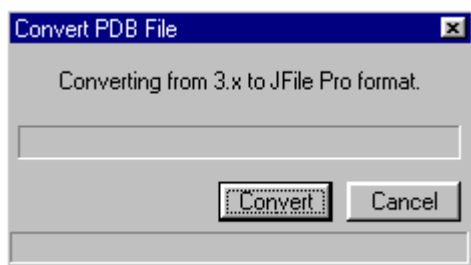
The **Convert PDB File** function allows you to convert easily between the two JFile formats, 3.x and 4.x. When the dialog box opens, the direction of the conversion will be automatically set. Just click the **Convert** button to convert your loaded database.

Please be aware that the **Convert PDB File** function does **not** touch the data itself, only the format information used to build a new PDB file for JFile or JFile 4.x on the Pilot. You will have to modify the database structure manually if you want to convert from 4.x back to the older 3.x format, unless the database contains fewer than 21 fields and does not use the new data types. Going from 3.x to 4.x will not require any structure changes as the limits of 4.x exceed those of JFile 3.x.

Converter Errors
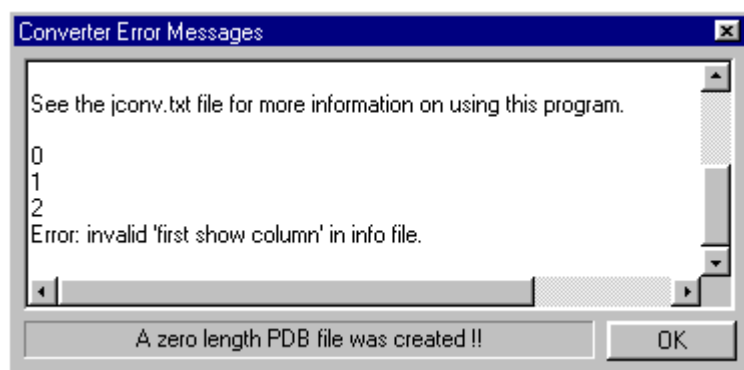
If the converter is unable to write out a PDB file or import the data for some reason, then JFTrans will open a text box that displays the error messages generated by the converter. These messages are always written to a file named JCONV.ERR in the JFTrans directory.

This allows you to determine if the data structure of the original PDB file was flawed, or there was another problem.   More information can be obtained on the converter and the meaning of the error messages in the JFile Converter or Trouble Shooting topics.

Printing the Database

Printing Overview

JFTrans contains a powerful print engine to print out your database. You have a number of options available to configure the report, include or exclude fields, set the justification of field data, or configure the printer. Please review the topics in this section for more detail.

One important feature that is not directly addressed in these topics pertains to limiting the records that are included in the report. By default, the print function always print all of the records that are currently displayed in the grid. If you need to print selected records, then you must apply a filter to the database before opening the Print MDB File function.

To apply a filter, select the Filter Records option on the Edit Menu, use the Ctrl-F keystroke, or click on the Filter button on the toolbar. The Filter dialog box will open and allow you to select the criteria for the records you want to include in the database and hence the report. Just enter the conditions and click the **Filter** button.

The results of the filter will appear in the data grid. If you then print the database, JFTrans will, by default, only print the filtered records. If you want to maintain a large database and only print newly added records, you might want to consider adding a date field to the records as a way of filtering out earlier records that have been previously printed, or use some type of flag that you can filter on. For example, if you frequently need to print random records, then it might be useful to create a Print field as a Boolean type. You could then just toggle this flag in the data grid, filter on its' value and print the results.

At any time, you can force the print routines to print the entire database regardless of any active Filter. Simply toggle the status of the **Print Filtered Records Only** option on the Data Options tab.

These same basic guidelines also apply to those records returned by an SQL Query. In this instance, toggle the status of the **Print SQL Query** option on the Data Options tab.

Another point to be aware of is that if you have set the Boolean format to **CheckBox** in Grid Properties, then the Boolean field types in a report will always appear as a **Yes** or **No** on the printed report, instead of a checkbox graphic. This is required when you export a report to an RTF file.

Printers & JFTrans

JFTrans does not use the default Windows printer exclusively, thereby allowing you to work with any physical printer or fax print driver on your system. Any changes you make to the printer settings are therefore used with JFTrans only, and do not reflect back on the printer settings used in another application.

When you first go to print a report in JFTrans, the Windows default printer appears as the default. If you change the printer, then JFTrans will always use the selected printer the next time you start the program. In addition, JFTrans saves various other printer and page settings as the program defaults and restores them automatically the next time you start up JFTrans.

The following settings are retained by JFTrans and set automatically on program startup :

Printer Name
Paper Size
Paper Source
Print Orientation
Left Margin
Right Margin
Top Margin
Bottom Margin

This allows you to create a basic default for all of your reports so that you do not need to specify each value every time you go to print. In addition, JFTrans remembers the current printer and pages settings when you close the Print MDB File dialog box and restores them when you open it again within the same JFTrans session.

NB: Because JFTrans remembers the basic settings and does not make changes to the print driver settings globally, it is advisable to set the other less frequently used setting outside of JFTrans. Settings such as paper source, graphics resolution, and settings unique to the specific printer driver should all be set as the standard driver properties outside of JFTrans.

Print MDB File
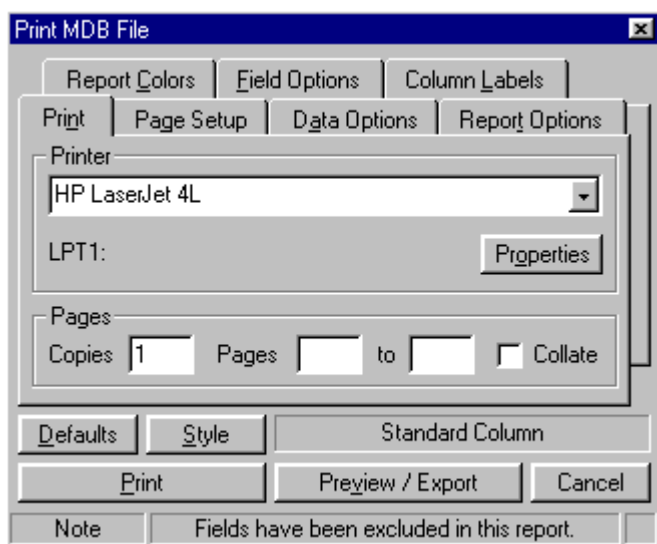
Print Tab
Page Setup Tab
Data Options Tab
Report Options Tab
Report Color Tab
Field Options Tab
Column Options Tab

Defaults	Restore Report Options to Default Values
Style	Toggle the Report Style
Print	Send Report to Printer
Preview/Export	Preview Report in Window or Export to File
Cancel	Cancel Printing and Close the Dialog Box

Please note that the **Print** function always closes the **Print MDB File** dialog box when executed, while the **Preview / Export** function always returns to the dialog box. This enables you to flip back and forth to look at the effects of your settings in Preview, and then make changes to them in the dialog box if required.

The status line at the bottom of the display shows any warning or status messages. The small box to the extreme right displays an 'F' if the database is currently filtered, a 'Q' if an SQL Query has been executed within the current session, or nothing otherwise. By default, the Print MDB File function will always limit the printout to include only filtered records, or only those records that are returned by an SQL Query. If you need to print all records, then see the **Print Filtered Records Only** and the **Print SQL Query** options on the Data Options Tab.

Print Tab
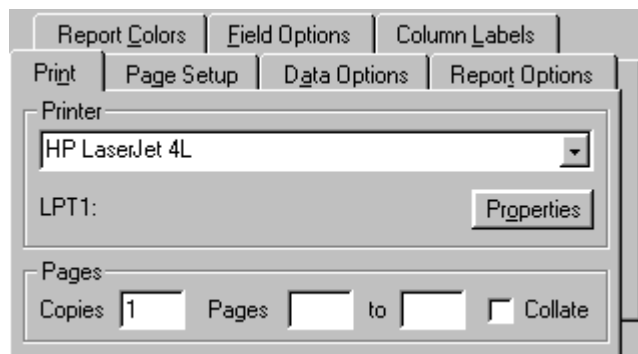
The **Print Tab** allows you to set various options or change the printer settings before a print run.

The **Printer** section displays the current printer to be used by JFTrans to print the report, and the output destination. You can easily select another printer just by opening the dropdown list and clicking on a different printer. If you select a new printer, then JFTrans has to retrieve the printer settings and determine all of the fonts that are available with the newly specified printer. Depending on the printer driver selected and the number of fonts on your system, you could experience a slight delay when you select a new printer. A status message will appear while the settings are retrieved. If the new printer does not support the fonts that you have set for the report, then a message will appear to warn you, so that you can either select another printer or change the report fonts.

As a convenience, you can set the printer properties by clicking the **Properties** button, which opens the Printer Properties dialog box.

The **Pages** section allows you to set the number of **Copies** to print and also specify the **Page Range**. If you want to collate the copies, then check off the **Collate** option.

If you do not want to change the page margins or paper orientation, then just click **Print** or **Preview** to either send the report to the printer or view it first.

If you close the **Print MDB File** dialog box, then all of the above settings are retained by JFTrans for the next time you open the dialog box.

Page Setup Tab
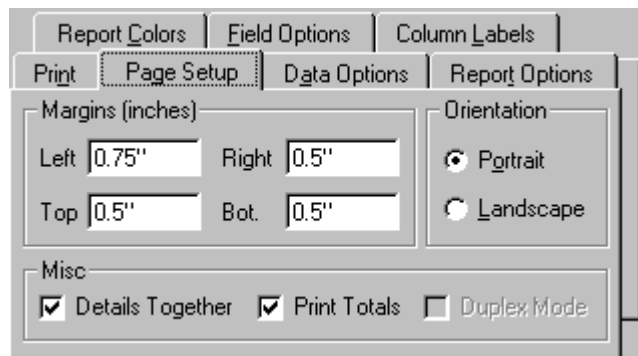
The **Page Setup Tab** allows you to specify the margins and paper orientation of the printed report.

The **Margins** section specifies the paper margins used. All of the entered values must be in decimal inches, such as .5 for a 1/2 inch. If a particular margin setting is left empty when you move to another setting, then it will default back to the JFTrans default value.

The **Orientation** section allows you to set the paper orientation for the report, either Portrait or Landscape. Any change you make in this section will be copied back to the print driver itself, so that the standard printer Properties dialog will always reflect your current setting, and vice versa.

The **Details Together** option instructs the print engine to keep all of the fields for a single record together when printing a report in Database Style.

The **Print Totals** option instructs the print engine to include the totals calculated in the Totals View. The new report section is added to the end of the report that includes the fields names and their totals.

The **Duplex** section allows you to print in Duplex Mode, if your printer supports this option. If the selected printer does not, then this option is disabled.

If you close the **Print MDB File** dialog box, then all of the above settings are retained by JFTrans for the next time you open the dialog box.

Data Options Tab
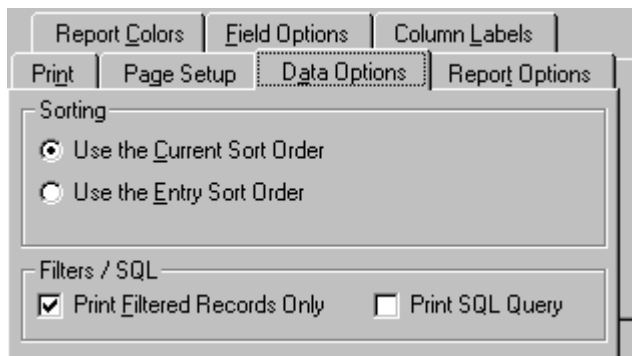
The **Data Options Tab** allows you to determine how the database will be ordered etc..

The **Sort** section allow you to specify the order of the printed records. The **Use Current Sort Order** option tells JFTrans to keep the records in the same order as they currently appear in the grid. The **Use Entry Sort Order** option tells JFTrans to remove any sorting and print the records in the order that they were entered or imported into the database.

If the database is currently Filtered, then the **Print Filtered Only** option will be enabled. When checked off, JFTrans will limit the records in the report to those currently displayed in the grid. If the grid contains filtered records, then you can tell JFTrans to print all of the records by simply unchecking this option. The status of this option is always displayed in the small box at the extreme right of the status bar. When checked, an 'F' will appear, or the box will be blank.

If you have run an SQL Query within the current session of JFTrans, then the **Print SQL Query** option will be enabled. When checked off, JFTrans will limit the records in the report to those that are returned by the query string. The status of this option is always displayed in the small box at the extreme right of the status bar. When checked, a 'Q' will appear, or the box will be blank.

Notes

Only the **Print Filtered Only** or the **Print SQL Query** option can be active, **On**, at any one time. If both options are enabled, then toggling one **On** will turn the other **Off**. If you have a Filter activated and have also executed

an SQL Query, then JFTrans will always default to the Filter. The **Print Filtered Only** option will be checked on and the **Print SQL Query** option will be unchecked. If you want to print the query, just turn the **Print SQL Query** option **On**.

Because of this, you should always check the status box at the extreme right of the status bar when you first startup the Print MDB File command to determine what the current setting is.

Report Options Tab
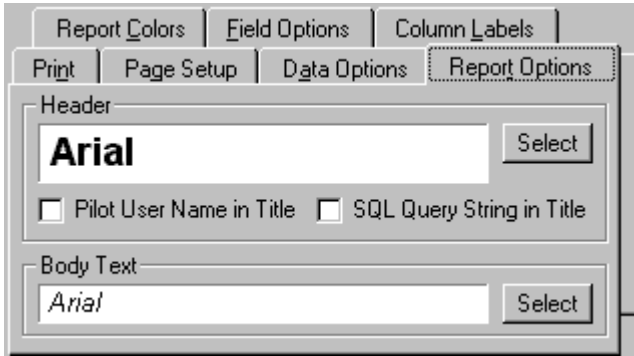
The **Report Options Tab** allows you to modify the fonts and other attributes used by the built in report form.

A JFTrans report contains four basic sections. The first is the report header that only appears on the first page and contains a title and the date and time that the report was printed. The second is the page header that appears on all pages and contains the column titles and a black dividing line. The third is the detail section that prints the actual records from the database, and the fourth is the page footer that contains the page number.

The **Header** options enable you to determine the font and font size of the report title. By default, these are set to 14 point Arial. The fontsize setting only affect the title itself, as the date and time printed in the report header use the same font as the title and the fontsize set for the body of the report (detail section).

The **Pilot User Name in Title** option forces JFTrans to include the Pilot User Name of the current user in the report header, just below the title of the report. This can be handy if you have multiple user support enabled, or you have to submit printed reports that require your name on them.

The **SQL Query String in Title** option forces JFTrans to include the last used query string in the report header, just below the title of the report. This is useful to clearly define what the data in the report actually represents.

The **Body Text** options allow you to set the font type and size used to print the records themselves and the column titles and page numbers. Be aware that the column titles will always be printed bold, as will the page numbers. The default is 10 point Arial.

As available fonts are always determined by the specified printer, we strongly suggest that you use the same printer driver in JFTrans and preview your font settings before a first print run. JFTrans remembers your report options, and loads them whenever you run the program.

When the Print MDB File dialog box initially opens, it checks that the selected printer supports any fonts that you have selected. If the current printer does not support the fonts, then an error message appears, suggesting that you either change the printer, or select different fonts.

Report Colors Tab
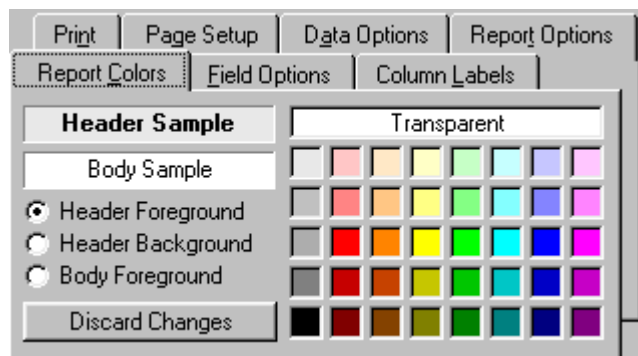
The Report Colors Tab allows you to set the color of the report header background and foreground, and the foreground color of the text in the main body of the report. By default, the header background is set to light gray, the foreground to black, and the body text to black on a transparent background.

To set a new color value, simply click on one of the options on the left to select the type of value you want to change. Then just click on the appropriate color tile to set that color value. The appropriate sample tile will change to reflect your current choices.

Any changes you make are immediately in effect, and are saved automatically by JFTrans for the next time you open JFTrans. If you do not like your current changes, simply click on the **Discard Changes** button to set the color values back to what they were when you first started up this session of JFTrans.

Field Options Tab
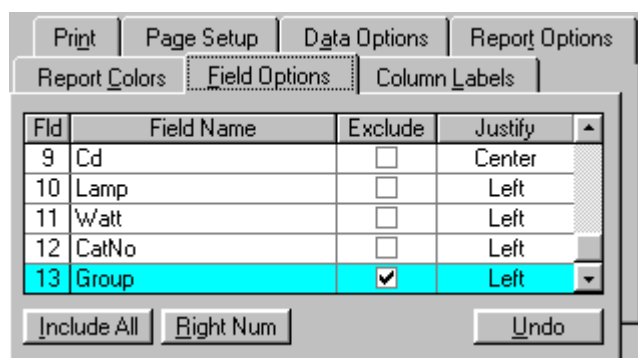
Include All	Include All Fields in the Report
Right Num	Right Justify all Numeric Field Types
Undo	Discard All Changes

The **Field Options Tab** allows you to turn off specific columns so that they do not appear in a printed report and also determine how the data in the column is justified. This is most useful for example when your database contains fields that are primarily used to order the data in some fashion. These fields are useful, but don't contain data that would need to be printed.

When the tab opens, any fields marked for exclusion are highlighted with a cyan background, and the Excluded column contains a marked off checkbox. To change the status of a field, just highlight the Excluded cell with the left mouse button, and then left click again to toggle the status to **Yes** or **No,** checked or unchecked. When you click on another row, the row you previously edited will change color depending on the setting in the Excluded column.

Because the print engine **always** takes the order of the printed data columns directly from the data grid and **not**

the structure of the database, the fields in this display will always match the current column arrangement in the data grid. The field numbers to the extreme left will therefore not always be in numeric sequence.

If you want to print every column in your report, then just click the **Include All** button to quickly reset all excluded columns. JFTrans saves the status of the Excluded fields so that they are automatically reset the next time you open the database.

To change how the data in the column is justified, just highlight the Justify cell with the left mouse button, and then left click again to toggle through the three options, **Left**, **Right**, or **Center**. As a fast option, you can also click on the **Right Num** button, and any Access field types set to a Byte, Integer, Single, Double, or Currency will be set automatically to right justified.

The **Undo** function will undo any changes you have made to the settings from when you **first** open the **Print MDB Files** dialog box. The function does not stack the changes and undo them sequentially. It merely snapshots the current settings when the dialog box opens and allows you to reset to those values.

Note : The Exclude and Justify settings you make here are retained by JFTrans in the loaded MDB file. If you import the data with the Preserve Grid Format option unchecked, **Off**, then all of the fields will be included in the report, and all fields will be left justified. You will then have to set the exclusion and the data justification settings again.

Column Options Tab
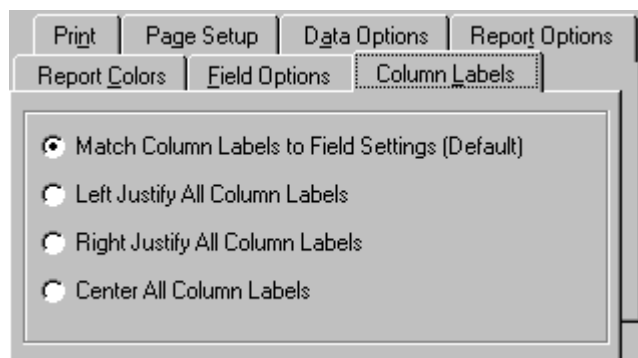
The **Column Options Tab** allows you to set how the column labels will be justified in your report. This option only affects the titles at the top of each column, not the data displayed in the column itself. Please see the Field Options Tab to change the data justification.

The **Match Column Labels to Field Settings** option tells the report engine to justify the title in the same way as the data in the column itself, as set in the Field Options Tab. This is the default setting.

The **Left**, **Right** and **Center** options set the title justification as the name of the option suggests.

The option you choose on this tab is retained by JFTrans as the default for **All** reports that you print. It is not set on a report by report basis.

Print Preview

The **Print Preview** screen is a dynamic viewer that allows you to view the report as it will be printed, before actually sending it to the printer. All of the report elements are correctly rendered in the fonts you have selected, or the JFTrans default values. The Preview window can be moved anywhere on your screen, and can be maximized for easier viewing.

When Preview opens, the report is loaded into a page cache and the first page of the report is displayed. By default, Preview configures itself to show the complete width of the page, but this can easily be changed with the various tools on the toolbar.

The toolbar contains tools to modify the scale or zoom factor of the display, select a page to view, or send the report to the printer. From left to right, the tools are :

Print Report	Send the report to the printer
Export to PDF	Export the report to a PDF file
Export to RTF	Export the report to an RTF file
Zoom Out	Zoom out to display more of the overall page
Zoom In	Zoom in to display more of a particular section of the page
Zoom Select	Select the zoom factor from a drop down list
Previous Page	View the previous page
Next Page	View the next page
First Page	View the first page
Last Page	View the last page
Page Count	Display the current and total page count
Cancel	Close the Preview Window

If the report appears correct and all of the columns are correctly displayed, then click the **Print Report** button to send the report to the printer. A progress dialog box will appear displaying the currently printed page and a **Cancel** button, should you wish to abort the printout.

Note
When you open the Preview window it needs a few seconds to render the first page. As the report is being loaded, you will see the page count box display the page number that has just been loaded. When all of the pages are loaded, the count box will display the current and total number of pages. The Preview window can clear if you try to scroll through a page with the scroll bars before the page images have been loaded. If this

happens, merely click on a Zoom button or select a zoom factor from the dropdown list. These actions refresh the current page view and update the scroll bars.

Report Layout

JFTrans can print a report in either of two styles, a Standard Column style much like an Excel report, and a Database View style that prints the data fields vertically on the page. By default, JFTrans always starts up set to the Standard style, but the style can be easily changed by clicking the Style button on the Print MDB File dialog box. The style setting is always retained for the current session.

Standard Column Style

JFTrans allows you to modify the layout of the report to a limited degree. The report is built internally by the print routines and uses settings from the grid to determine the sequence of the fields, the column titles, and the column widths.

This last setting, column widths, is probably the most important in that you can determine the print widths of the columns simply by re-sizing the grid columns. If you preview a report before printing and see that column data is getting truncated, then simply close Preview and widen the appropriate grid columns. Be aware that by default, the grid display in 8 point font, while the report is printed in 10 point Arial. Data could display correctly in the grid, and still get truncated in the report. One trick to avoid this is to set the grid font to the same font as the reports, size the columns appropriately, and then set the grid font back to the original font and font size. Because JFTrans remembers the grid layout for the next time you open the MDB file, the data both display and print correctly.

If there are more columns than can fit in the width of a page, then JFTrans will drop any extra columns from the right edge of the report. One way to solve this problem is to narrow the column widths in the grid, reduce the page margins, or print the report in Landscape mode. You could also try reducing the size of the font used to print the body of the report. You can also exclude fields from the report that you do not need on paper. Another technique would be to move the columns to the front of the grid that you want printed. This saves you the bother of having to exclude a great many fields, as the extraneous columns to the right that do not fit the printed page will be dropped off the page when printing anyway. The print engine **always** takes the order of the data columns directly from the data grid and **not** the structure of the database.

The print engine always wraps long text into the specified column width, just as the grid does. If the text runs past the width of the column, the text will be wrapped and the line height will be adjusted automatically for that specific line only.

The first time you go to print a report with a new MDB file, always **Preview** it first to ensure that you get what you expect on paper.

Database View Style

The Database View Style enables you to print all of the fields in a report in a vertical fashion, one field per line. In this style, the individual records are visually separated by a thin line across the page. This style is most useful when you have a great many fields, or the fields contains a large amount of text such as long descriptions or memos.

The fields are printed in the same order as they appear on the grid so you can move the more important data to the beginning of the grid to place those fields at the top of the field list when the report is printed.

The print engine calculates the width of the widest field name and then uses that to set the left margin of the field contents. The width of the field contents is set to the remaining space, up to the right margin of the report, so that long text strings can be displayed in the most easy to read fashion. If the text runs past this set width, the text will be wrapped and the line height will be adjusted automatically for that specific line only.

The Database View Style will not print any fields that have been excluded from the report.

Export Report

JFTrans can export a previewed report to either an Adobe Acrobat PDF file for easy distribution to others, or to a Rich Text Format RTF file that enables you to make additions to a report, or paste the report into another document.

These functions are basically an extension to the Print Preview window and can only be accessed from there. When you preview a report by clicking the **Preview** button on the Print MDB File dialog box, the preview window will open and render the report. In the upper left corner, beside the printer icon, you will see a PDF document icon and a simple document icon, the export to PDF and RTF functions respectively. These icons will be disabled until **all** of the pages in the report have been completely rendered.

Once the pages have been rendered and displayed in the preview window, you can click either function and a standard Windows file box will open containing the filename of the loaded database with either a PDF or an RTF extension added. By default, the file box opens on the JFTrans DATA directory where your MDB file are also stored.

To export the report, just enter a filename or accept the default and click on the **Save** button. JFTrans will then export the report to the appropriate file format and a message will appear to confirm that the report has been exported. If you have selected an existing file for the export, then you will be asked to confirm the overwrite.

When the report has been exported, the **Exit** button in the preview window will take you back to the normal grid display.

Reference Section

JFTrans & Access
JFTrans & Excel
JFile 4.x Considerations
Access File Formats
MDB File Structure
Templates
Batch Installer Utility
Common Issues
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Date & Time Formats
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JFile 3.x Converter
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Future Plans

JFTrans & Access

Due to the fairly large differences between to two database engines, JFTrans makes some assumptions about the type of data and how to translate it, and provides you with a means to clearly specify the data typing that you require.

By default, JFTrans converts the data as follows:

JFile	JFTrans
String	Text (250 Max)
Boolean	Boolean
Integer	Long Integer
Float	Double Precision
Date	Date Type
Time	Date Type
Popups	String (72 characters Max)

JFile 4.x Only

Auto Increment	Long Integer
Create Date	Date Type
CreateTime	Date Type
Modify Date	Date Type
ModifyTime	Date Type
MultiList	String (72 characters Max)

All strings are created as variable length strings to reduce the MDB file size.

JFTrans supports string lengths greater than 250 characters if so specified when the PDB is originally loaded, by using the Modify Field Types dialog. It will import this data into Access Memo fields at the users request. The downside of Memo fields is that they cannot be sorted on or used as part of a filter definition in JFTrans. If a field is converted to a Memo type, then the field name will be excluded from the popdown lists in Sort and Filter.

JFTrans limits Text field entries to 250 characters, and Memo field entries to 500 characters in order to stay within the JFile limits.

Because Access is much more rigid about naming fields etc.. JFTrans will automatically strip out invalid characters from any JFile field names. The only valid characters are letters, numbers and the underscore. Any others will create errors in either Access or the print engine. The other rule is that the first character in a field name **must** be a letter. JFTrans will correct this situation automatically and change an invalid character into an 'a'.

JFTrans will also ensure that no duplicate field names exist in the current file, and will add letters to a duplicate name to make it unique. For example, three fields named Film will be converted to Film, Filma, and Filmb.

JFTrans/Access Data Type

String
Up to 250 characters

Memo
Up to 500 characters

Byte
0 to 255

Integer
-32,768 to 32,767

Long (long integer)
-2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647

Single (single-precision floating-point)
-3.402823E38 to -1.401298E-45 for negative values
 1.401298E-45 to 3.402823E38 for positive values

Double (double-precision floating-point)
-1.79769313486232E308 to -4.94065645841247E-324 for negative values
 4.94065645841247E-324 to 1.79769313486232E308 for positive values

Currency (scaled integer)
-922,337,203,685,477.5808 to 922,337,203,685,477.5807

JFTrans & Excel

JFTrans can create a new database from an Excel worksheet. Because a worksheet is not a structured database such as an Access MDB file, there are some consideration you should be aware of.

The principle issue revolves around column titles on row one. By default, JFTrans assumes that the worksheet contains column titles on the first row, and that the first column is not blank, but contains a title and data. If this is the case, then JFTrans treats each named column as the equivalent of a database field and it can check for modifications to the worksheet when you load a template based on that sheet, and inform you of potential errors or conflicts.

If the worksheet does not contain column titles on the first row, then JFTrans cannot compare the structure of the worksheet to the structure of the associated JFTrans MDB file. In this instance, JFTrans can only assume that you have not changed the worksheet by inserting new columns or by rearranging the columns.

If you want to frequently use an Excel worksheet to update a JFTrans MDB file with a template, then it is advisable to make sure that the first row contains titles and the first column contains data. If this is inconvenient, then setup the worksheet **exactly** as you want and do **not** change it over time.

JFile 4.x Considerations

JFile 4 contains many new features and enhancements that are fully supported in JFTrans.

The principle area of concern is the new file format in the 4.x release and the affect it has on JFTrans. For the most part, you will not aware of the differences when working with the older JFile 3.x or the newer 4.x formats. JFTrans functions identically with the two and seamlessly manages one or the other. Below are some of the differences between to two formats and the ramifications for JFTrans.

File Format

JFTrans identifies the file format whenever you import a PDB, or open an MDB file built with a PDB in one format or another, and the internal tables required to rebuild and document the PDB are managed appropriately.

JFTrans always displays an identifier in any relevant dialog boxes or prompts, and also includes this identifier on the status line at the bottom of the JFTrans display. When a file is loaded, the status bar will display either '3.x' or '4.x', depending on the format of the loaded file.

Converting Files

When you first get JFile 4.x, we **strongly** recommend that you **copy** all of your JFile 3.x PDB and associated MDB files to another directory for safety. It is best to simply copy them elsewhere and then use the Convert function discussed below to convert the existing MDB files in your DATA directory to the new 4.x format. You can then simply install the PDB files once they are converted. This way, your file / directory setup does not change at all and your older format data is safe should you need it for any reason.

You can easily convert between formats using the Convert PDB File function on the Files Menu. Please be aware that the Convert function does **not** touch the data itself, only the format information used to build a new PDB file for use on the Pilot. You will have to modify the database structure manually if you want to convert from 4.x back to the older 3.x format, unless the database contains fewer than 21 fields and does not use the new data types. Going from 3.x to 4.x will not require any structure changes.

Database Limits

JFile 3.x supports 20 fields in a database while the newer 4.x release supports 50 fields. JFTrans identifies the PDB format and sets these limits internally for range checking etc..

JFile 4.x supports longer text strings than the earlier release, 4000 characters versus 500 characters. In JFTrans, any field can contain up to 32k characters in Access if it is defined as a Memo field. JFTrans will always chop the memo field down to the maximum limit set by the JFile format when installing or exporting a PDB file.

Field Types

JFTrans supports all of the new field types available in the 4.x release. The Create from, Create New, and Modify Database dialogs configure the possible choices appropriately for the loaded file or selected format. Both of these dialogs now support the new Auto Increment integer type and allow you to set the Starting Number and the Increment Value in two additional columns on the extreme right that appear only when a 4.x file is loaded.

The Auto Increment function can be used to set the current Start Number and Increment Value at any time, on the fly. This is handy if the auto numbering has gone out of sync due to deleted records. The Auto Increment type **Start Number** and **Increment** values are **always** updated when you import a PDB into JFTrans, regardless of the setting of the Preserve Grid Format option. This ensures that the proper start number will be applied to any new records you add in JFTrans after an import.

The new **Multi List** data type is treated exactly the same way as the Popup type, and elements in a Multi List field can be edited or added to the dialog box. The only difference between the two is when you select an item

from a Multi List popup in the grid. The Popup type replaces the current cell with the selected item while the Multi Type list adds a space to the existing cell contents and then adds the selected item text. JFTrans verifies that the total length of the data will not exceed the character limits of the field, and will warn you if the data is too long to fit. If you create a Multi List field in a new database, then try to make sure that you set the width of the Access field appropriately so that several items from a Multi List can be saved into the field. Generally, you can set the width to the maximum (250 characters for a String type) and not worry about the extra storage space as JFTrans always creates variable length text fields so that the database only holds the actual text and does not pad out the field to its maximum length.

The character used to separate the strings in a **Multi List** data type can be changed in JFTrans to something other than the default space character. You can change the character in Preferences.

New Features

JFile 4.x now writes out dates with 4 digit years. To support this new format, JFTrans can be set to format 4 digit years when it writes out a new PDB file. Just turn on the **Format 4 Digit Years** option in Preferences to match JFTrans to 4.x. If you prefer the older 2 digit year format, you can turn this option off and JFTrans will write years as it always has, with 2 digits. When you hotsync a PDB file to JFile, years will appear in JFile in 2 digits, even though 4.x will always enter new dates in its default 4 digit format.

Options

JFile 4.x enables you to set more database options, and now passes most of them back so that you can set them in JFTrans. The old Password option has been removed in the 4.x version, and is therefore disabled in the JFile Settings dialog box if a 4.x file is loaded. The **AutoLock** option is retained in 4.x and can be set with a simple checkbox. 4.x allows you to set the database as **ViewOnly** and also make it **Private**, hidden from the casual user if the Pilot Security option is set to Hide. JFTrans enables both of these options in JFile Settings for 4.x files, and disables them under 3.x.

All of the options that are passed back to JFTrans are held on one line in the IFO file, as an integer value. JFTrans reads this line of the IFO whenever you import the PDB, regardless of the Preserve Grid Format option, and updates the stored option settings automatically. This ensures, for example, that if you move a database to a new category on the Pilot and then import the data, the category does not change on you when you install the PDB back to the Pilot.

Templates

Due to the changes in the 4.x data structure, templates that were built with previous versions of JFTrans will no longer work correctly. You will have to redo the layout by using the Create from Excel or the Create from Access functions, define the field types etc and then save the new template on top of the old. I am sorry for the inconvenience, however there was no way for me to convert or support the older version.

The new format is documented in the Templates topic.

Access File Formats

The issues discussed in this section are only relevant to JFTrans 2000, and not JFTrans.

The new Access 2000 file format is not backward compatible with previous version of Access. As such, you should carefully consider what you need to do with your JFTrans databases when deciding on the Access format you want them to be created in.

The choice you make ultimately depends on what you need to do with the data. If you want to share your JFTrans databases with other applications that do not support the Access 2000 format, then the **Create in Access 97** option should be turned on, checked. This option forces JFTrans to create all databases in the older 97 format. If you do not need to share the information, then you can leave this option unchecked (the default), and JFTrans 2000 will create Access 2000 databases exclusively.

The other consideration is the situation where you have existing databases created with an earlier release of JFTrans. If the Create in Access 97 Format option is on, then you can load your old databases into JFTrans 2000 and not be the least concerned about converting them.

The format of the database is only an issue when you create the database, either by importing a PDB file for the first time, or by re-importing with the Preserve Grid Format option unchecked. At all other times, JFTrans 2000 simply works with the data in the format it finds it in. This same rule applies to Access data imported with the Create from Access function.

MDB File Structure

JFTrans creates Access files in a uniform manner, and each file will contain some standard tables that define the file structures, sort options, and IFO file settings etc. The following is a list of tables created by JFTrans, and their purpose.

Main Table
This is the primary table used to hold all of the data in the JFile database. The fields will be named as you have set them with the Modify Field Types option, as will the data types.

Grid Table
This table stores information about the grid layout, column titles, and widths etc.

Sort Table
This table retains the current sort settings for the loaded MDB file.

Filter Table
This table retains the saved Filter setups for the loaded MDB file and it is never removed or overwritten when importing from a PDB file.

IFO Table
This table contains the header lines from the IFO file created by the converter on import. JFTrans retains this information internally so that you do not have to keep the IFO file lying around on your harddrive,, and so that JFTrans can easily reconstruct the required header when you Export or Install a PDB file. This table contains the information that is used in the JFile Settings dialog box.

Popupx .. Popupz
This table or tables define the contents of the dropdown lists in JFTrans, that map to the popup fields in JFile. As in JFile, the table is suffixed with a letter that identifies the column in the database to which it is matched.

Warning
The Sort, IFO, and Grid tables should **never** be modified by another program or from within Access. Doing so could easily result in a broken file that will choke in JFTrans, and thereby force you to import the PDB file and modify the field types all over again. Please do **not** edit these tables.

Templates

A template is basically a snapshot of the Access database or Excel worksheet that you open when you create a new PDB file with the Create from Access or the Create from Excel function, and the structure you define with it. When you define the structure of this new MDB / PDB file based on the data source, you can create a template by clicking on the **Save** button before you build the new JFTrans MDB and JFile PDB database.

A template is a text file that is saved in your JFTrans directory and contains information about the data source used as the basis of the new MDB and PDB file, the structure you have defined, and other information about the JFile name and settings. This template can then be used as a means of re-importing the data from the original Access table or Excel worksheet, without having to redefine the structure or destroy the grid layout of the associated JFTrans MDB file.

When you import using a template, JFTrans can open the original database and update the JFTrans database with the current records from the Access file or the Excel worksheet. Only the 'Main' table in the JFTrans database is affected by the import. Please see the Import from Template topic for more information.

Please understand that a template is associated with a specific table or worksheet in a specific Access or Excel file. If this file has been copied somewhere else or the internal table no longer exists, then you will not be able to use the template. A template also contains structure information about the relationship between the fields in the data source file and those in the JFTrans MDB file. You **cannot** modify the Access field information in the JFTrans MDB file without breaking a template. You can use the Modify Database function to change the JFile structure, but you **must not** touch the Access fields definitions.

Structure :

A template is an ASCII text file that can be opened in Notepad. If you want to modify it for any reason, do **not** use a text editor like Word that embeds control characters, but the Notepad editor supplied with Windows.

Here is an example of a template file:

Pro v.1
Excel 5.0;HDR=NO;
F:\JFTrans\Data\Dmp\schedule.xls
SHEET1$
schedule.xls - sheet1$ - 93 rec
100
1
0
0
0
Schedule
0
10
Date,8,8,Date,4,45,0,0,Field 0,8
From,10,255,From,1,160,0,0,Field 1,10
To,10,255,To,1,160,0,0,Field 2,10
Advrt,22,8,Advrt,32,25,0,0,Field 3,8
Actual,22,8,Actual,32,25,0,0,Field 4,8
Error,3,2,Error,8,40,0,0,Field 5,8
ArvDep,10,255,ArvDep,1,160,0,0,Field 6,10
Note,10,255,Note,1,160,0,0,Field 7,10
Field 8,7,8,Field 8,16,45,0,0,Field 8,7
Field 9,7,8,Field 9,16,45,0,0,Field 9,7

The first line contains a marker that identifies the version of the template file. The second line identifies the connect string used by the database engine in JFTrans to connect to the data source. In the above example,

this string identifies an Excel worksheet as the source and indicates that the worksheet does not contain titles on row one (HDR=NO).

The third line contains the full path to the Access or Excel file, and the fourth the name of the table or worksheet used. The fifth line is just the initial information line that appeared in the Create from Access or the Create from Excel dialog box when the table or worksheet was initially loaded.

The next eight lines hold information about the Pilot file you created from the original Access or Excel file. In sequence, they represent the Edit Width, the 2nd. Column value, AutoLock status, ViewOnly status, Private status, Title of the Pilot database, and the state of the Encrypt Database option where 0 is unchecked and 1 is checked.

The next line is the total number of fields in the MDB / PDB database, followed by a description line for each field. In the example above, the field count is 10, and there follows 10 lines of description, one for each field. The description lines should **not** be edited in any way.

Batch Installer Utility
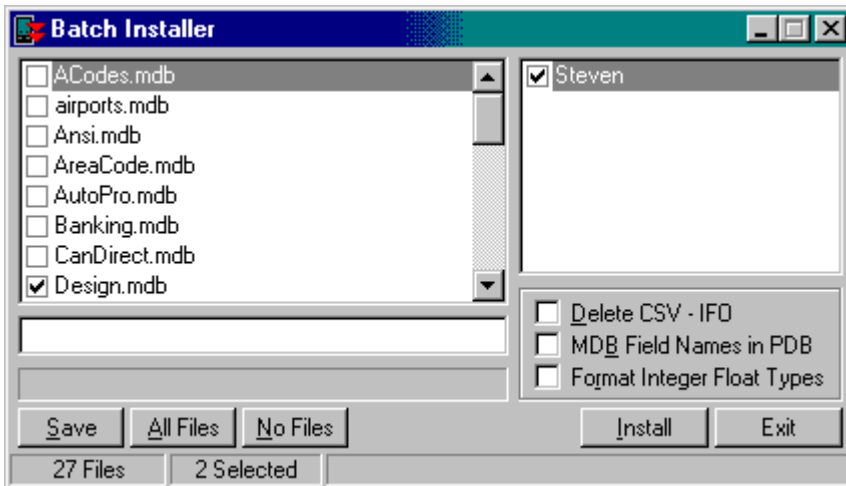
The Batch Installer Utility provides the same functionality as the Batch Install tool in JFTrans, without any need to have JFTrans loaded. The utility can be used as a fast way to install a group of frequently used databases for either a single user or multiple users.

The utility starts off in the top left corner of your screen. You can move it anywhere you wish, and its position will be recorded for the next time it is run.

Because it is identical to the built in batch installer tool, please see the Batch Install PDB Files topic for information on how to use it.

Caution:

The Batch Installer Utility **cannot** run at the same time as JFTrans. Both applications need access to the same database file and therefore cannot run concurrently. If you try to load one while the other is running, you will get an error message, and the application will shut down.

Common Issues

Data Issues

JFile is not a very strongly typed database product. It provides the convenience of setting various data types such as dates or floating point numbers, but does not rigidly check the entries you make against the specific type. Types in JFile become more of an input mask or a means of selecting data from another source, such as dates from a displayed calendar.

This is not to say that it is not extremely useful or flexible. It is in a great many ways, but one has to be careful when defining a database that is to be used by a strongly typed product such as Access. JFTrans tries to reconcile differences as best it can, but some things are better done when the original data structure is defined on the Pilot.

Some simple rules ensure that the exchange of data between JFile and JFTrans will be straightforward and clear.

- Always create fields with unique names.
- **Always** avoid punctuation within field names. It is better to name a field LastName instead of Last_Name. Fieldnames should consist of letters, numbers, and the underscore **only**. The first character in a fieldname **must** always be a letter.
- Always set the appropriate data type in JFile. For example, you may know that a field will contain date information, but if the date info is not a specific month/day/year format (or similar) then just use a string type instead. You may enter a date like 19976-98, but no database product will recognize it as a formatted date !!
- Try to set numeric types that match the numeric range enforced by Access. For example, entering an integer number of 32770 will work fine in JFile, but Access will have to convert it to a long integer. If you have doubts about the size of numeric value, then set the JFile type to Floating to resolve any issues before they become so. Please see the JFTrans & Access section of this help file for information on numeric ranges.
- Try to avoid the use of Memo fields because they cannot be used as part of a Sort criteria, nor can you use them in a Filter or a Replace definition.

JFTrans attempts to catch some of these problems when creating the MDB file originally. If you know of a possible conflict beforehand, then toggle the Modify Fields option On so that you can change the Access type as part of the import process. You can always change the type to the next largest numeric type for example.

IFO File Issues

The JFile converter enables you to set various parameters and then create a new PDB file using these parameters to define the file structure in the PDB file. Problems can occur that JFTrans cannot correct automatically. It will inform you of the specific problem it encounters and display an appropriate error message.

"PDB file contains a field with mismatched data. The data is not properly formatted to match its field type (e.g. Date Field contains an Integer)."

This message will identify the invalid field type so that you can modify the type in JFile and then try the import again.

"PDB file contains a misnamed popup field. The popup letter does not match a field number designated as a popup field type."

This one is a bit harder to manage as it means that the PDB file contains a column (say column 5) that is designated as a popup type, yet the letter designation that connects the popup to the field is not correctly named (popupf instead of popupe). The JFile converter topic contains information about the internal structure of an IFO file. In this instance, the best way to solve the problem is to manually edit the IFO file, create a new PDB file using the converter, and then load this new PDB directly into JFTrans. You do not have to install it onto the Pilot, just import it directly into JFTrans.

Trouble Shooting

A number of issues can surface when you run JFTrans, some of which relate to the program itself, and others to the structure of the JFile PDB database you are trying to import or export. This section outlines some of the main error messages you may encounter, and ways to solve the problem.

Error 13 (Type Mismatch)

This is probably the most common error message reported. This message appears when JFTrans is importing a PDB file. The first time you import a PDB file, JFTrans reads the structure of the JFile database and matches the JFile field type to the closest Access field type. This relationship can be modified in the Modify Field Types dialog box if required.

Once this relationship is determined, JFTrans starts to read in the data from the PDB file and convert each specific field of data to the previously matched Access data type. This message is generated when JFTrans cannot do the conversion due to the fact that the actual data in the PDB file is not the correct type.

A simple example of this would be if you tried to convert a text string into a number. Obviously it is impossible to convert 'Howard Smith' into '2,345'. Because JFTrans also finds it impossible, it generates this error message and aborts the import.

The best way to solve this problem is to look at the data structure in JFile and the specific information you are storing in this structure. If you see a field that is set to an integer type in JFile, yet the data in a specific record says 'Howard Smith', then you can be sure that JFTrans will choke when it tries to convert it. Simply set the JFile type for this field to a string instead of an integer.

Please see the Common Issues and JFTrans & Access sections of this help file for more information on how JFTrans matches the data types.

Zero Length PDB File Created

This message occurs when you are Exporting to or Installing a PDB file.   What basically happened is that the converter had a problem making the new PDB file and created a file that contains no data. The file itself exists in the export directory, however, because it contains no data, the length of the file is 0 bytes.

If JFTrans was able to capture the error messages generated by the converter, then they will be displayed in the Converter Errors window automatically. These messages are also written to a file named JCONV.ERR in your JFTrans directory. Usually, the error messages will pertain to either invalid settings in the PDB file such as those you can edit in JFile Settings, or to bad data in the MDB file itself. The error messages will indicate where the problem data is, so that you can simply edit the bad cell or cells and try again.

If JFTrans was not able to trap the error messages from the converter, it will still display this error message to warn you that the Export or Install was unsuccessful. The best way to resolve this is to look at the IFO or CSV files created by the converter. They would be in the DATA subdirectory off of the JFTrans directory. You may well find that the JFile data structure has got corrupted somehow, or that the settings in the IFO file are invalid. Please see the JFile Converter topic for more information on the contents of the IFO file. Another way that a zero length file can be created is due to Carriage Returns and Line Feeds in the data. See the next section for more information.

Carriage Returns and Line Feeds

Carriage Returns and Line Feeds in your data can create big problems for the JFile converter. The way the converter works is that is assumes that a complete record exists on each line of the generated CSV file, which is written out as an ASCII text file. If your data contains carriage returns (the Enter key), then the data can get broken up so that one line (record) can get split over two or more lines. In this instance, the converter will choke, complaining about an invalid number of fields in the current record, due to the fact that it was split across multiple lines. The typical error message is :

Missing Field Data at Record xxx

JFTrans therefore strips out any carriage returns or line feeds when you run Export or Install to ensure that the converter will not choke when building the actual PDB file. JFTrans also strips them out when reading in the data from the PDB file. So, even if you use carriage returns within the text of a particular cell, the carriage returns will **not** be there when you import the data from the PDB again. Even though JFile supports linefeeds, its converter does not.

Date & Time Handling

On Import

You can import PDB files with date and time field data, and display the dates and times properly in JFTrans. Two format types are supported in the Grid Properties dialog box, Date format and Time format. By default, the Short Date and Short Time formats are used, but you can also select Long or Medium Data and Time formats from the dropdown list. If you change the format, then the grid will be repainted when you click **OK** to close the Grid Properties box, and any date and time data in the MDB file will display in the set formats.

Internally, JFile Date and Time fields are mapped to the Access Date type. The only difference between the two types is that you can determine how the date and time values are displayed, as discussed above.

On Export / Install

JFTrans exports date and time data to the PDB file in the same format as the date and time formats currently set on your Pilot. To accomplish this, you MUST go to the Palm Pilot tab in Preferences and set the new Date and Time formats to match your Pilot settings. Once this is done, JFTrans will always format your date and time field data to these settings when you Export, or Install a PDB. These settings ONLY affect the way the data is written out.

Within JFTrans, your date and time information will appear according to the display formats you have set in Grid Properties. This solves an issue at the JFile end, in that the popup date and time dialogs within JFile will always work correctly because the data itself matches the system format.

International Font Support

JFTrans is not supplied in localized versions, however it does contain some setup options that make it adaptable to foreign language character sets. The JFTrans interface will always use the MS Sans Serif font and display text and button descriptions etc. in English. You can change other fonts used by JFTrans so that your actual data and the structure of a PDB / MDB database are correctly displayed and handled in the software.

When JFTrans is first run, it sets the appropriate fonts and options for the geographical location set in Windows Regional Settings. In most cases, it will use the MS Sans Serif font and let Windows reassign the font internally for the language version of Windows you are running. In the case of Chinese, Korean, and Japanese versions of Windows, it will determine the default system font and use that.

If JFTrans is unable to properly assign fonts and options, or you have updated from an earlier release of JFTrans, the required steps are outlined below so that you can set the options manually. These changes should be made **before** you import any PDB files or work with your existing databases.

Grid Fonts:

Select the Grid Properties item from the Options menu and select an appropriate font using the **Select** button.

Lists and Text Setup:

Select the **Preferences** item on the Options menu, go to the Font Options tab and then set the appropriate fonts.

The **List Box** font is used in any pulldown lists or combination lists as well as the other grids found throughout JFTrans, such as the Popup Editor or the Modify Database grid. This latter example clearly illustrates how the list box font is applied. The grid is composed of columns that represent the name of data fields in Access and JFile, and also system settings such as field types. The list box font will **only** be applied to those elements that represents user data and can be edited, such as the field names. Any system or JFTrans specific elements, such as the pulldown field types, will remain in the default MS Sans Serif font so that all of the text strings and control descriptions will match.

The **Text Box** font is applied to any editable field, such as a prompt for the title of a JFile database or a search string.

Asian Language Fonts:

Select the **Preferences** item on the Options menu.

If you are running an Asian language version of Windows and using Asian language extensions on the Pilot, such as JOS, then the **High Bit Char. in Field Names** option should be set **on**. When importing a PDB file, JFTrans checks the field names for illegal characters, ie. those that would create error messages in the Access data engine or the print engine. This processing works well with non-Asian character sets, but creates problems with Asian languages that use double byte characters. With this option, you can force JFTrans to allow high bit characters and thereby support Asian character sets.

Printer Fonts:

Select the **Print MDB Files** item on the File menu, go to the Report Options tab and then set the appropriate fonts to be used in all reports.

Revision History

This Revision History only includes changes made to JFTrans in the year 2000. For a complete list of changes, please see the help file.

Ver. 1.50.0 - Released Sept. 4, 2000

Add a Database View and tracking functions to track all of the MDB files in your DATA directory, and when they were last imported from or installed to the Pilot.

Add a Batch Installer to install multiple PDB files in one pass. A group of MDB files can be selected as an installation default, and files can be easily added to removed from the group before a batch run. The batch install function also supports multiple users, so you can install multiple files to a selected group of users. This functionality has also been built into a small stand alone Batch Installer Utility so that you can batch install your files without even opening JFTrans.

Add new font options to enable you to set the font used in grids, lists and text fields throughout JFTrans. This addition is primarily intended to support Japanese users or those that use double byte character sets, however it can be used to modify the look of JFTrans if you are bored with the MS Sans Serif font !! As part of this change, all of the font selection options in JFTrans now use the standard Windows font dialog box instead of pulldown lists, and the current font is previewed in the panel that identifies the selected font. See the International Font Support topic for more information and an overview of the available font options.

Add in new option to Preferences to allow JFTrans to correctly handle Asian character sets when importing PDB files. If you are running an Asian language version of Windows and using Asian language extensions on the Pilot, such as JOS, then the new 'High Bit Char. in Field Names' option should be set **on**. Please see the Options Tab for more information.

In a multiple user configuration, JFTrans now retains those users that have been selected to receive an installed PDB file. The Install dialog for multi user support now saves the list of selected users, and restores the same selections the next time you run JFTrans. The current selections are also available in the Batch Install function and the Batch Installer utility. Changing the selections in one, updates them in the other functions.

Modify JFTrans to remove the need to changes spaces to underscore characters in field names. This restriction was not due to Access, but to the print engine and the manner in which reports were built on the fly from the data and the structure of the loaded database. If you want to remove the underscore characters from existing databases then use the Modify Database function. You can also edit the field names in JFile and then re-import the database with the Preserve Grid Format option **off**, unchecked. This change does not stop JFTrans from underscoring any invalid characters in a field name that would generate errors in Access; punctuation and control characters are still underscored.

Add numeric checking when importing a PDB file to make sure that JFile numeric field types do not also contain characters other than digits and a period. JFTrans now detects the problem and displays a helpful error message with the name of the specific field, instead of a cryptic system error box.

Fix a problem with the Modify Field Types dialog that can appear when importing a PDB file. It was possible to damage an MDB file if the dialog box was cancelled with the Cancel button, as the processing was too far into the import process to exit cleanly. I also added an additional button called Discard that continues the import processing without using any changes you might have made to the Access field structure. The Cancel button now aborts the import process cleanly.

Fix a problem where you could not export or install a PDB file that had just been imported. If you imported a PDB file, changed the data, and then tried to install the revisions back to the Pilot, JFTrans was generating a File Open error.

Fix a problem where the Ctrl V paste function was pasting the clipboard contents twice if the current grid cell was already in edit mode.

Fix a problem where the report generator was causing JFTrans to not properly shutdown if an error was encountered when the report was being previewed. An error message would be displayed, and if you then closed JFTrans, it disappeared from the screen but was not fully unloaded from memory.

Ver. 1.49.0 - Released July. 18, 2000

If you are upgrading from JFTrans for Access 97 to JFTrans 2000, please see the Upgrading to JFTrans 2000 topic for information about file formats etc..

Create an alternate download site for current and beta versions of JFTrans and JFTrans 2000 on Driveway.com, an internet file storage site. Please see the Product Updates topic for more information.

Update the programming environment used to build JFTrans. While you will not see any outward sign of this change, this release uses newer components and DLLs than the previous versions and should be more stable, particularly when run on systems with the latest Windows patches and versions of Internet Explorer.

Improve Clipboard handling so that you can now copy, cut or paste into or from cells without putting the specific cell into edit mode. The standard Ctrl C,V and X key combinations are supported and the Clipboard commands have also been added to the Grid Menu that appears when you right click on the JFTrans grid.

Add the ability to start JFTrans from an icon in the System Tray.

Allow the export or install of empty databases. Previous releases would display a warning message and not allow you to export or install a database that did not contain any records. This could be a problem if you were designing a database in JFTrans to be used by several users, as you would normally want to distribute an empty PDB database. This release warns you that the database is empty, but allows you to continue and write a new PDB file.

Fix a bug where dates were incorrectly formatted and displayed in a report.

Numerous other small bug fixes.

Ver. 1.46.0 - Released Jan. 24, 2000

Add an SQL Query function that allows you to run queries on the database using SQL and view your data in ways not possible with the Filter command. The queries can be saved in the database for reuse at any time.

Add support for the Microsoft Intellimouse or any mouse with a wheel or roller. All of the grids and list elements in JFTrans now allow you to scroll using the mouse wheel.

Add a Get Previous function that enables you to copy the data in the cell immediately above the current cell, into the current cell. This is very useful when you have a column of data that is essentially the same. You can quickly grab the contents of the cell above with the **Alt-P** key combination and then move down to the next cell to repeat the process.

Add a new Formats to Preferences to group all of the options that affect the way data is written out to the PDB file.

Add new format options to force time and date strings to be written out in 2 digits, groups with leading zeros, so that the values will align consistently in JFile.

The Create from Access and Create from Excel functions now default a JFile text field to a display width of 150

pixels instead of 160. This allows you to easily resize the column in JFile when you install the new PDB file.

Fix a problem with the Import and Modify Database processing when popup fields existed in a 4.x database above the field 26 position. JFTrans was incorrectly writing out the internal table names in the MDB file, and the popup titles in the IFO file used to build a new PDB file.

Fix a problem with the Modify Database function when trying to convert Text field types to Booleans.

Fix a problem when totaling numeric fields that contained NULL values. JFTrans was generating an error message instead of simply returning a 0 result.

Modify the grid to not allow the user to enter a double quote character (") as they can create a number of problems when exporting or installing the database to the Pilot.

Installed Files

The following files are installed by the **JFTrans** setup.

JFTrans Program Directory

jftrans.exe / jftrans2k.exe
jftrans.tb
jftrans.cnt
jftrans.hlp
jftrans.grx
jftrans.pdf
batch.exe
jconvpro.exe
jconv95.exe
readme.txt

Windows System Directory

msvbvm60.dll
stdole2.tb
oleaut32.dll
olepro32.dll
comcat.dll
msvcrt40.dll
vb5db.dll
comdlg32.ocx
mfc40.dll
olemsg32.dll
actbar.ocx
actrpt.dll
pdfexpt.dll
rtfexpt.dll
apigid32.dll
regobj.dll
arviewer.ocx
tdbg5.ocx
xarray32.ocx
fablock6a.ocx
sysinfo.ocx
comctl32.ocx
threed32.ocx
mscal.ocx
tabctl32.ocx
arformext.ocx
systray.ocx

DAO Files (JFTrans only)
to 'Program Files\Common Shared\DAO'

dao350.dll
dao2535.tlb

Access Files (JFTrans only)
to 'Windows\System'

asycfilt.dll
msjet35.dll
msjint35.dll
msjter35.dll
msrd2x35.dll
msrepl35.dll
vbajet32.dll
vbar332.dll

JFile 4.x Converter

Using the JConvPro.exe Converter Application

To use the new Win 95,98/NT converter in normal Windows mode, double click on the jconvpro.exe file, and a window with the following buttons will be displayed:

'Convert JFile 4 .PDB to .CSV' - click this button to select which .pdb file to convert into a .csv file. The file created will be in the same directory as the .pdb file with a .csv suffix instead of the .pdb suffix.

'Convert JFile 4 .CSV to .PDB' - click this button to select which .csv file to convert into a .pdb file. The file created will be in the same directory as the .csv file with a .pdb suffix instead of the .csv suffix. You can then select this .pdb file to be installed on the next HotSync using the InstallApp tool that ships with the Palm Desktop.

Field Delimiters: you can choose whether the csv file is delimited with commas or semi-colons for non-US users.

Use/Create Info file: for conversions from .pdb->.csv format, if this box is checked an info file will also be create (with a .ifo suffix) that will save more of the parameters of the database (fields types, widths, password, etc). Then when you convert back to .pdb from .csv format, you can check this box, and it will use that .ifo file as the format for the current data base. The converter will look for an .ifo file with the same beginning file name as the .csv file but with the .ifo suffix.

Convert JFile .pdb to JFile 4 .pdb – discussed in next section.

To use the jconvpro.exe in command-line driven mode:

Command Line usage examples:

For csv -> JFile 4 use:

jconvpro.exe 1 <input_file> <output_file> <database_name> <optional_info_file>

Where:
<input_file> is the path and DOS filename of the .csv to convert
examples: c:\temp\test.csv   or   test.csv

<output_file> is the path and DOS filename of the .pdb file to create
examples: c:\temp\test.pdb   or   test.pdb

<database_name> is the name of the database that will appear on the Pilot
examples: TestDB   or TestDatabase

<optional_info_file> is optional parameter, if you have an separate 'information' file saved for the this database.
examples: c:\temp\test.ifo   or   test.ifo

For JFile 4->csv use:

jconvpro.exe 2 <input_file> <output_file> <optional_info_file>

<input_file> is the path and DOS filename of the .pdb to convert
examples: c:\temp\test.csv   or   test.csv

<output_file> is the path and DOS filename of the .csv file to create
examples: c:\temp\test.pdb   or   test.pdb

<optional_info_file> is optional parameter, if you would like to create an 'info' file containing formatting and such from the database
examples: c:\temp\test.ifo   or   test.ifo

NOTE:
Keep in mind that once you convert a file from csv to pdb, if you want to send it to your Pilot, you will need to use the hotsync install tool, which is discussed further in the Pilot documentation.

CSV (Comma Separated Value) File Format
- top line is the field names, each separated by a comma
- each following line is a record, each field separated by a comma

The fields may be enclosed in quotes which will be removed prior to conversion to JFile .pdb format.

Converting JFile 3.x Databases into JFile 4 Format
Click the 'Convert JFile .pdb to JFile 4 .pdb' button to select which JFile .pdb file to convert into a JFile 4 .pdb file. If successful, a dialog box will come up and inform you of the complete conversion.. You can then select this .pdb file to be installed on the next HotSync using the InstallApp tool that ships with the Palm Desktop, and the database should then appear in the JFile 4 application.

Advance IFO File Usage and Formatting
The following explanation may be a bit complex to read through at first, but by looking at an example when you convert from .pdb to .csv WITH an info file, you can see how it all works together.

There is also no REQUIREMENT to use or to ever modify the info file you create.

First Line: contains a number representing the type for each field. NOTE: there must be 1 number for each field on this line types are as follows:

```
 1 = string
 2 = Boolean
 4 = date
 8 = int
16 = float
32 = time
64 = popup list
65 = creation date
66 = creation time
67 = integer with increment counter
73 = modification date
80 = modification time
81 = popup list allowing multiple popup items
```

example: for a database with 7 fields, of type: string, Boolean, date, popup list, int, float, popup list in that order would look like:
1 2 4 64 8 16 64

Second Line: contains the width of each field when displaying in the columnal overall database view, must be 0-160, and contain one number for each field.

example: for a database with 7 fields each of width 80:
80 80 80 80 80 80 80

Third Line: contains the width of the 'data' field (in pixels) for the editing view of the database (should be in the 20 to 140 range)

example: for a database with a data width of 90 pixel:
90

Fourth Line: contains which column is displayed next to the 'non-movable' first column in the database view (range of 1 to 19 - 0 = first field, 1 = second field, etc)

example: to display the second field as the first movable column (this is the normal beginning view):
1

Fifth Line: contains a integer representing a series of bits for the database preferences. For a complete and updated list of these preferences, feel free to email Land-J Technologies at support@land-j.com and request the latest developer documentation for JFile 4.

Sixth Line and Seventh Line: each line contains a series of digits which represent 'extra data' associated with each field type, such as current increment counter and increment amount for the field type of Auto-Increment. As above, please email Land-J Technologies if you are interested in an updated list of the possible values of these two lines.

Eighth Line: this line contains a hexadecimal token string to signal the end of this section of JFile information, the token string needs to end with the following hex string:
456E644A46696C654461746100

Future updates to JFile will allow the usage of binary data to be stored in the AppInfo section as well, and any such data will be converted to hexadecimal and placed prior to the above token string on line 8 of the ifo file.

Nineth Line and on...: contains the entries in the popup lists, each item goes on a line of its own. List are prefixed with the string "popupX" where X is the letter of the alphabet corresponding to the field number of the associated popup list (ie. a = 1, b = 2, etc...)

example:
the following lines are an example with a popup list for field 'd' which is the 4th field, and a popup list for field 'g' which is 7th popup field

popupd
a
bb
cc
and
here
we are
popupg
1
11
33333
4444

Be sure to follow this format if you are creating or modifying such info files manually instead of letting the jconvpro.exe program handle them.

Other Methods to Move Data Between JFile 4 and a PC or Mac

Many third party utility programs are also available to move data between JFile and a PC or JFile and Mac computer. For the latest such list of utilities, see the 'Links' section of the following web page: http://www.land-j.com/jfile.html

JFile 4.x Documentation

Updating From JFile to JFile 4:

JFile and JFile 4 can be both be on the Palm unit at the same time. JFile 4 uses a new database format and creator ID, and as a result, there is no interaction between JFile and JFile 4 on the Palm side, nor either of their respective databases. During this beta testing, you may continue to use JFile, and begin testing with JFile 4 at the same time (although duplicate database names are not allowed on the Palm device, so you will need to be sure your new JFile 4 database names do not conflict with any other databases on the Palm device).

To convert your existing JFile 3.x .pdb files into JFile 4 format, the included jconvpro.exe converter has a new button to help automate this procedure. More information on the converter is available near the end of this document.

To Third Party utility users with JFile 4:
If you are using any of the numerous third party utilities to help access your JFile databases on the PC or Mac, please see the following web page for update information:

http://www.land-j.com/jfileu.html

Some of the New Features in JFile 4:

- Advanced Filter option for up to 5 filter specifications, with ranges allowed
- Scrollbars in most views for easy database navigation
- More field types including: increment counters, creation and modification date and times, and multiple item popup lists.
- Three to four times speed improvement in most find, filter, and sort operations
- Databases may be grouped into categories for easy selection
- Increased maximum fields to 50 per database
- Larger font choices available for easier viewing
- New read-only view of a record similar to the AddressBook
- Printing of databases and records via the PalmPrint application
- Options for easy movement through databases and records with hardware keys mapped to the small onscreen movement arrows.
- Databases respect the normal Palm OS 'Private' setting from the Security Application
- Graphical method for sizing of columns in the Database View
- Creating a duplicate of a database structure
- Deletion of all records that appear in a filter
- 4 digit years standard from the Date Picker
- Compatibility with Launcher type apps to launch a specific database
- Included converter works in both command line, and Windows mode
- Easier editing and viewing of text fields with large amounts of data

Limitations:

- 60 databases (1 in the demonstration version)
- field names can be no longer than 20 characters
- 50 fields maximum per databases
- 4000 characters per field of data

Overview of the Application

JFile 4 is a flat-file database application for the Palm OS.

There are 4 primary 'views' in JFile 4: The 'Main' view, the 'New/Modify Database Structure' view, the 'Database' view, and the 'Record' view. A summary of each of these views is presented here, with an in-depth explanation

presented later in this documentation file.

Main View: This is the view that shows you a list of all the JFile 4 databases that are currently installed on the Palm device.

New/Modify Database Structure View: This is the view when you are creating a new database, or modifying the structure of an existing database. Here is where you set the field names, the field types, the database name, and other elements of the database structure.

Database View: This is the view you are presented with when you tap on a database name from the 'Main View'. This is a spreadsheet-like view all of the records in the database, with one record displayed per line, and you have the ability to scroll through the fields in a left/right manner.

Record View: This is the view you receive when you tap a specific record from the 'Database View'. The full contents of the records data are displayed on the screen in a format such that the field names are on the left side of the screen, and the field data is on the right side of the screen. This is the primary location to do any editing to the data.

Main View

List of Databases
The main area of the database view is the listing of JFile 4 databases that you have on the Palm unit. The table is contains 4 'columns':

The first column is an icon that resembles and eye. Tapping this icon for a particular database will launch that database in read-only mode – no changes are able to be performed on a database while in read-only mode.

The second column is that name of the database itself. Tapping on this column will launch the database in normal mode where editing is permitted.

The third column is the number of records currently in the database.

The forth column is an I icon, standing for information. Tapping this will popup a dialog box with the given databases details and preferences.

Creating A New Database:
To create a new database, tap the 'New DB' button. You will be taken to the New/Modify Database View, where you can set up or make changes to the databases field names, field types, and the database name itself. Further details on this is contained in the section on the New/Modify Database View.

Viewing A Database:
While on the main view screen, tap on the title of the database you would like to view. A new screen comes up, with the title indicating which database you are in. For a new database you will see only the column/field headings. See the 'Database View' section of this documentation for more information on this.

To create a new database, tap the 'New DB' button. You will be taken to the New/Modify Database View, where you can set up or make changes to the databases field names, field types, and the database name itself. Further details on this is contained in the section on the New/Modify Database View.

Deleting A Database
To delete a database from the Palm unit, tap the square 'Delete' button at the bottom of this screen, then tap on the name of the database you wish to delete. A confirmation message will be displayed, and then the database will be removed from the Palm unit.

Beaming a Database to Another Palm Unit
To beam a database from one Palm unit to another, tap the square 'Beam' button at the bottom of the screen, then tap on the name of the database you wish to beam. Point the two Palm unit's InfraRed ports at one another, and the beaming will commence, with a verification message given at the end of the procedure. Note the Palm unit you beam the database to must also have JFile 4 installed to be able to view the database.

Modifying A Current Database's Structure
To modify an existing database's field names, field types, or database name itself, tap the square 'Modify' button at the bottom of this screen, and the tap the name of the database you wish to modify. You will then be taken to the Modify Database Structure View. Further details on modifying a database are given later in this documentation.

Category Support
JFile 4 databases can be categorized. In the upper right section of the screen is a category popup list, similar to the one on the normal Palm applications. Using it, you can display a subset of the databases that are only in a particular category. You can set each database's category via the 'DB Prefs' menu option, or the 'I' (information) icons on the main screen of JFile 4.

Setting and Removing the Private Flag
JFile 4 databases use the internal Palm OS Private setting to either show or hide databases that have been marked Private (further details on the private setting below). JFile 4 provides a quick method to toggle the Security App setting of the Private flag, via the two menu options on this screen in JFile 4 for 'Show Private Data' and 'Hide Private Data'.

The Hide Private Data menu option will immediately move the Palm into Private mode. To return to non-Private mode, use the Show Private Data menu option – you will be presented with a password input dialog, where you will need to enter the password you have assigned in the Security Application of the Palm device (or leave it blank if you do not have a password set). If the password matches, then the Palm device will toggle out of Private mode and all of your Private databases will appear in the Main View JFile 4 screen as well.

App Prefs Menu Option
While in this screen, and most of the others in JFile 4, there is a menu option available for changing your application preferences, listed as 'App Prefs' in the JFile 4 menu. This will bring up a dialog box with a number of preferences that you can set:

Buttons = left/right arrows
Checking this option will allow usage of the 'Address Book' and 'Todo List' hardware buttons on the Palm unit to also act as the left/right scroll arrows on the various screens in JFile 4, which is sometimes easier than trying to select the smaller on-screen left and right scroll arrows. Unchecking this button will return the hardware buttons to their normal assignment of launching the respective application

View mode in columnal format
In cases where you are viewing a read-only database, JFile 4 will normally switch to a view only mode to display individual records. This mode looks similar to the AddressBooks view mode. If you prefer to view your read-only databases in the normal JFile 4, where all field names are in a left hand column, and field data is always in the right hand column, check this option.

Confirm database deletion
Checking this preference will require an extra 'Are you sure' dialog box before deleting a database, to help prevent accidental database deletion.

Confirm record deletion
Checking this preference will require an extra 'Are you sure' dialog box before deleting a record in a database, to help prevent accidental database deletion.

Auto-Capitalization on
Checking this box will turn on auto-capitalization in most fields in JFile 4 so that when you begin to edit a new field, the first character entered is capitalized by default.

Edit in place in column view
This preference, if checked, will allow you to edit certain fields in JFile 4 in the Database View, instead of having to go completely into the Record View. This works on the field types of PopupList, Date, Time, and Boolean. This makes it very easy to check or uncheck a Boolean (checkbox) field when you are viewing all the records in a JFile 4 database for instance, without having to first select the individual record, and then checking or

unchecking the box.

Do not search JFile in global 'Finds'
This option, if checked, will exclude JFile 4 from the normal Palm OS 'Find' operation (to the right of the Graffiti input area). This is useful if you have very large databases in JFile 4, and do not wish to slow down the normal Palm 'Find' routines by searching through the JFile 4 databases as well. This option does not affect the internal JFile 4 search, filter, or find routines.

Data Font
A series of 3 fonts are available for you to choose from – they affect most of the data fields in JFile 4, to make the text larger (or smaller), and perhaps easier to read on the Palm screen.

New/Modify Database Structure View

Creating A New Database:
To create a new database, tap the 'New DB' button. Enter the name of the database at the top of the screen, which can be up to 30 characters in length. The next step is to select the field names for each record and the field types.
The field names can be up to 20 characters each in length, and must be continuous on the 'New Database' screen, JFile 4 will not permit you to leave an 'unnamed' field in the list of field names.

You may choose a different Field Type for each field. To the right of the field type column, you will see a '?' for certain field types. Tapping this will allow you to choose among variations of that particular field types. The field types are listed below:

Field Types
String: this is the 'normal' field type allowing strings of up to 4000 characters to be entered in the field list. For very long text fields, easy editing and viewing of the field is possible by clicking on the field name in the record view. This will cause a popup edit box to appear that will allow complete and easy access to the string field's data.

Bool: this is the Boolean type of field type, and will appear in your databases as a checkbox that is either checked or unchecked. NOTE: You can 'filter' on Boolean fields using either a 0 or a 1 as the filter string.

Date: this is the Date type of field type, and will popup a Date picking dialog box when you click on the name of the field

Variations:
Normal Date – a date field that is initially blank.
Creation Date – a date field that automatically fills in the date the record was created
Modification Date – a date field that updates each time the record is modified

Time: this is the Time type of field type, and will popup a Time picking dialog box when you click on the name of the field

Variations:
Normal Time – a time field that is initially blank
Creation Time – a time field that automatically fills in the time the record was created
Modification Time – a time field that updates each time the record is modified

Popup: this is a Popup List field type. You can define the contents of the popup list once you are in the editing view of the database itself. Popup lists are not intended to be used for very long lists of data. There are limitations in JFile 4 that limit each Popup List to 100 items, and each list is limited to approximately 2000 characters of data

Variations:
Normal Popup – the data for the field is completely replaced with the text from the popup choice
Multiple Popup items per line – the popup text is appended to the data on the line, with a comma separating the new popup choice.

Int: this is the Integer field type. Sorting on this field will be valid for integers up to approximately 9 digits in length.

Variations:
Normal Integer – a normal integer field that is initially blank
Auto-Increment Integer – a integer field that automatically fills in with the value of the 'Starting Number', and then each time a new record is created, the counter is bumped up (or down for negative numbers) by the amount of the 'Increment Amount'.

Float: this is the Floating Point field type. Sorting on this field will be valid for integers up to approximately 9 digits in length.

Database Modification
You can now change the names of fields, their Field Types, as well as the database name after the database has been created. You can also add, delete, and exchange fields in the database structure. To modify a database in this way, go to the Main view in JFile 4, tap the 'Modify' button, which will become highlighted, and then select the database you wish to modify.

From this screen you can Insert (Ins. button) a field, Delete (Del. button) a field, or Exchange (Exch. button) 2 fields in the database structure. Note that on large databases some of these operations may take a while to complete.

Similarly you can change the types of Fields in this screen. Note however that if you change from non-compatible field types, you will have a loss of data. Example: you have a field with a string type with a lot of text in each record in that particular field. If you switch that to a Boolean type of field, you will lose each of those strings, and the field will be reset to allow input of a Boolean/Checkbox type of input.

Database View

Database Preferences
The Database Prefs menu option will bring up the Database Preferences dialog box – you can also bring up this dialog box via the 'I' icon on the Main View screen next to each database name. From here you can modify certain features of each particular database:

Category: this is a popup list from which you can choose the category to assign this database.

Backup Database at HotSync: this box, if checked, will backup the database .pdb file to your Palm backup directory on the PC at each HotSync. Note that certain backup utility application may override this value.

Private Database: this box, if checked, will set the database to be a Private Database, similar to the other Palm applications Private settings (described in your user manual for the Palm device itself). Private databases are only shown in JFile 4 if the security setting on your Palm device is in 'Show Private' mode. If it is in 'Hide Private' mode, JFile 4 databases with the Private setting will not be shown.

NOTE: There is no encryption being done on the data items in the database itself! The purpose of this private function is only to prevent the casual user of your Palm device from accessing you more Private data. Example: say you want to hand it to a friend to try out the Pilot, with the Private box set for the database, and the Auto-Lock on, the person will not be able to access that particular database in JFile 4 if the security application on your Palm unit is in Hide Private records mode.. Similarly, the data is not encrypted in the resultant .pdb file on the PC following a HotSync, so that it is possible to access the data in a Private database after a HotSync on the PC. Again, the purpose of the Private flag is simply to prevent the casual user of you Palm device from accessing data that you would not like them to have access to.

Auto-lock on app exit: this box, if checked will automatically set JFile 4 back to the Main View whenever the application is exited. This is useful for private databases – since a database that is 'opened' will be re-opened when JFile 4 is launched again (after using another app). If this box is checked, the database is automatically closed when you switch from JFile 4 into another app. If unchecked, the database remains opened, and when you re-enter JFile 4, the database will be opened and in the same screen you were at when you left it.

Make this database read-only: this box if checked will make the database a read-only database. No changes to data, addition or deletion of records will be allowed on this database while this box is checked.

Sorting a Database
While viewing a database, you can tap on any of the column headings to sort the database by that particular column/field – tapping the column heading will bring up a list of options, with Sort Normal and Sort Reverse available for each column (field) of the database. A menu option to sort the database with secondary and tertiary sort fields is also available.

Viewing A Database:
While on the main view screen, tap on the title of the database you would like to view. A new screen comes up, with the title indicating which database you are in. For a new database you will see only the column/field headings.

As the number of records in your database grows, you'll find yourself scrolling down the list of records. Keep in mind that in addition to the software "line at a time" up/down arrow buttons provided by JFile 4, you can also use the hardware "scroll" buttons provided on your Pilot (just below the data entry area) to move not only JFile 4 but any pilot application's data up and down a full page at a time.

Column Totals
JFile 4 supports column totals. You can click on a column title (ie. the field name), and you will be presented with a list of options, one of which is 'Column Totals'. By clicking on this, you will see the totals for that particular column. For integers and floating point numbers, the total will show the number of records and the total of the numbers. For checkbox/Boolean type fields, this will show you the number of checked vs. unchecked boxes. All other field types will show you the number of records in the display.

NOTE: The totals are based on the current filter, so that if you have a filter on that is showing 20 out of 40 total records, the totals will be based only on those 20 records in the filter.

Setting Up Column Widths
In the database columns view, tapping the column heading will present a drop list with one of the choices being to 'Set Column Width'. When tapped, a vertical line will appear on the right side of the column you are setting the width for. By clicking on the line and dragging it to the left or right, you can modify the width of that column that is displayed. A number at the top of the screen appears to give you a indication of the number of pixels that are used to display the column.

Note that it is possible to set a column to be 'invisible' by setting its width to be 0 (or a very small number that will not allow any text to be displayed). To set a column back to visible after it has been made 'invisible', tap the menu option for 'Show 'Hidden' Columns' and all columns smaller than 10 pixels wide will be modified to display at 40 pixel column widths.

Horizontal Scrolling
Horizontal scroll buttons are at the top right of the Database View. The first column is a non-scrollable column and any other visible column will now scroll left and right through the available fields. Note that if you have the App Prefs feature checked for this (described above in the documentation) then the AddressBook and TodoList buttons also simulate the tapping of the left/right arrows at the top of the screen.

Filtering the Database
You can filter records in the database so that only records containing a particular string of characters is shown. To accomplish this, select the Menu option in this screen for 'Filter Records'. A dialog box with a number of options is presented:

Field To Search: This is allows you to choose which fields you would like to perform the filter operation on, so that that string must occur in a specific field to match the filter criteria.

Filter String: This field is where you input the string of characters you wish to filter on, as an example, a filter string of 'apple' would filter all records in the database that contain the word 'apple' in them.

Fields Must Begin: This checkbox allows you to search for records that must begin with the search string. As an example, if 'apple' was the search string, then 'apple a day' would be filtered, while 'where is the apple' would not be filtered.

This is an 'exclude' filter: This checkbox reverses the operation of the filter, so that only records NOT matching the filter string are displayed.

After you have selected your filter options, pressing the 'Filter' button will begin the sort process. A 'wait' message will be displayed to begin the filtering process. And you will be returned to the Database View with only those records matching the filter string displayed. Moving through the records while viewing a filtered list may take a longer time that moving through records on an unfiltered list.

To remove a filter that is currently on the database, you may either select the menu option for 'Show All Records', or you may go back into the Filter Records screen, and tap the 'Remove Filter' button.

Advance Filtering of Database
A new option in JFile 4 is the Advanced Filter menu option. This is intended to be used by those already familiar with the normal Filter screen in JFile 4. Because of its advanced nature, and in an effort to squeeze as much data onto the screen, it may be necessary to refer to this section before and during use of the Advanced Filter screen, until you become accustomed to the interface.

There are 5 filter specifications available on this screen, each one similar in usage as the primary Filter method in JFile 4. The underlined line next to the number is the filter string itself, which you wish to search for. Above this line is a drop box to pick which field (or all fields) that this filter string should be applied to. To the right of the underlined area are two boxes the B box is checked will activate a Field must BEGIN with specification for that filter string, and the ! box if checked acts as a exclude filter (also known as a logical NOT). Up to this point, if just using these, the usage is the same as a normal JFile 4 filter.

In between the filter strings though are two boxes one AND box and one OR box to let you decide if you want the specifications to require both (AND) or either (OR). As an example if filter 1 string was book and filter 2 string was mark, and you had the AND box checked, it would look for only those records that possessed both book AND mark in the fields text. Conversely if OR was checked, then all records containing either book OR mark in the field text would be filtered. When using more than two field specifications, these AND/OR operators are applied in a top to bottom (left to right if going from field specification 1…5) order. As in the following parenthetical function: RESULT = (((((1 AND/OR 2) AND/OR 3) AND/OR 4) AND/OR 5)

Ranges   also available only in this advanced filter screen are ranged filters. These are activated by placing a greater than or less than sign in front of the filter string. As an example if you want to find all records with integer greater than 4500, the string would be >4500. Note that ranges are only available for field types that are integer, floating point, or date formats, and that the associated field must be a single field (not the All Fields selection.)
NOTES   The filter selection criteria for this screen is not saved from invocation to invocation.

Advanced Sorting of the Database
Besides the normal sorting option in JFile 4, you can also perform a more advanced sort, by selecting the 'Sort Items' menu option. A dialog box will be presented that will allow you to choose up to 3 fields to sort on, each having an independent ability to sort normally or in reverse fashion.

Finding a Particular Record
If you are looking for a particular record in JFile 4, you may search for it via the 'Find' button at the bottom of the Database View. You will be presented with a dialog box with a number of options:

Field To Search: This is allows you to choose which fields you would like to perform the filter operation on, so that that string must occur in a specific field to match the filter criteria.

Find String: This field is where you input the string of characters you wish to filter on, as an example, a filter string of 'apple' would find records in the database that contain the word 'apple' in them.

Fields Must Begin: This checkbox allows you to search for records that must begin with the search string. As an example, if 'apple' was the search string, then 'apple a day' would be found, while 'where is the apple' would not

be found.

The 'Find' operation in JFile 4 differs from the Filter operation in that a Filter will ONLY show those records that match the Filter string. A 'Find' on the other hand will move the first record that matches the Find criteria to the top of the Database View screen. The '+' button next to the 'Find' button at the bottom of the screen will perform a Find Next function, that will then move the next record matching the Find criteria to the top of the screen.

Deleting Record(s) in the Database
To delete a record in the database, tap the square 'Del' button at the bottom of the screen. The button will then invert in color. Then tap on the record you wish to delete. A confirmation dialog box will appear, and then the record will be removed from the database.

Adding a New Record to the Database
To add a new record to the database, tap the 'Add' button at the bottom of the screen. This will create a new record in JFile 4, and take you to the Record Level view in JFile 4, detailed further below.

Moving Through the Database Records
For databases that contain more than 10 records, scroll bars appear on the right side of the JFile 4 screen. You can use them to scroll quickly through the database records. Alternative, the up and down hardware buttons at the bottom of the Palm unit may be used to scroll through the records a screen up or down at a time.

Printing A Database
Initial support for printing of JFile 4 database to infrared capable devices is available through the PalmPrint application from Steven's Creek Software. Note that you must have PalmPrint installed on the Palm unit to take advantage of this. To print the database, select the menu option of 'Print Records'. If a filter is activated, only those records in the current filter will print.

Record View

Editing Records
When viewing a record in JFile 4 (if the database is not read-only), you can edit any of the data in each field by selecting the underlined field, and then begin entering data via the normal Graffiti keystrokes.

Some field types has certain other methods available to edit the data of the record:

String Fields: string fields may also be editing in a separate dialog box, especially useful for large amounts of characters in the field, by tapping on the field name on the left hand side of the screen.

Popup Lists: you can edit popup lists fields by manually entering the data into the field, or if you select the field name, the popup list itself will be shown to choose a selection from.

Date Fields: you can edit date fields by manually entering the date via graffiti strokes, or by tapping on the field name to bring up a dialog box with the date picker.

Time Fields: you can edit time fields by manually entering the time via graffiti strokes, or by tapping on the field name to bring up a dialog box with the time picker.

Boolean Fields: Boolean fields (checkboxes) can only have two states, checked or unchecked, and clicking on the box will change the state from one to the other.

Viewing Fields That Contain Lengthy Data:
If you have a lot of data in one field (more than 200 characters usually), and it spills of the screen, JFile 4 allows you to view and edit the entire field by tapping on the field name (the left column). You will be presented with a dialog box that allows easy viewing and editing of the larger text fields.

Adding Records To A Database:
While viewing a database, tap the 'Add' button. You will be presented with a form showing the field names, and space to enter your data. When finished editing your data, tap 'Done' to save the changes, 'Cancel' to cancel them, and 'Del' if you wish to delete the record from the database.

Changing the Editing Record Format
While editing a record, you can use the Menu options 'Increase Field Width' and 'Decrease Field Widths' to increase or decrease the amount of space allotted to the data fields. Each time you tap on the menu item the 'data' portion of the screen is incremented or decremented by 5 pixels in size. This allows you to view more or less of the field names if the data is small, and vice versa if the data is large compared to the field names.

Exporting A Record to Memopad
There is a menu option of 'Export to Memopad'. When activated, this will create a new memo in the MemoPad application with the contents of the record as the memo itself. Note that due to limitation in the MemoPad application, each memo is limited to 4000 characters, and as a result, a record that is exported must also be under this 4000 character limit.

Printing a Record
Initial support for printing of JFile 4 individual record to infrared capable devices is available through the PalmPrint application from Steven's Creek Software. Note that you must have PalmPrint installed on the Palm unit to take advantage of this. To print a record, select the menu option of 'Print this record'.

Duplicating a Record
To make a duplicate copy of a record in the database, select the 'Duplicate Record' menu option. This will save the current record, and create an add an exact duplicate of that record to the database.

Moving Through Records
While viewing an individual record, you may move forward and backward through the records in the database in one of two ways. You can tap the left/right arrows at the top right hand corner of the screen to move either to the previous or next record. Alternatively you may also use the hardware up/down buttons to move to the previous or next record.

Miscellaneous
Using JFile 4 with Flash Rom

You can use JFile 4 .pdb databases in Flash ROM, in read-only mode, however you must be running the latest version of TRG's Flash Builder application. Email TRG for the latest information on this application.

You can also place the JFile 4 application itself into FlashRom.

JFile 3.x Converter

JFTrans uses the JFile converter to read and write PDB files. Included here for convenient reference, is the documentation supplied with the converter.

Versions :

jconv.exe is the DOS version of the app (works on less than 5000 record databases)

jconv395.exe is the Win95 version of the app (works up to 50,000 record databases)

jconvf.exe is the non-US DOS version of the app (works on semicolon separated fields)

A sample comma separated values file is included for example purposes.

Using the Windows 95 Converter Program :

To use the new Win 95 converter, double click on the jconv395.exe file, and a window with the following buttons will be displayed:

'Convert JFile .PDB to .CSV' - click this button to select which .pdb file to convert into a .csv file. The file created will be in the same directory as the .pdb file with a .csv suffix instead of the .pdb suffix.

'Convert JFile .CSV to .PDB' - click this button to select which .csv file to convert into a .pdb file. The file created will be in the same directory as the .csv file with a .pdb suffix instead of the .csv suffix. You can then select this .pdb file to be installed on the next HotSync using the InstallApp tool that ships with the Palm Desktop.

Field Delimiters: you can choose whether the csv file is delimited with commas or semicolons for non-US users.

Use/Create Info file: for conversions from .pdb->.csv format, if this box is checked an info file will also be create (with a .ifo suffix) that will save more of the parameters of the database (fields types, widths, password, etc).
Then when you convert back to .pdb from .csv format, you can check
this box, and it will use that .ifo file as the format for the current data base. The converter will look for an .ifo file with the same beginning file name as the .csv file but with the .ifo suffix.

Using the DOS Converter Program :

The converter is can be fully command line driven or else you can use it in interactive mode by simply running the jconv.exe program.

Command Line usage examples:

For csv->Jfile use:

jconv.exe 1 <input_file> <output_file> <database_name> <optional_info_file>

Where:
<input_file> is the path and DOS filename of the .csv to convert
          examples: c:\temp\test.csv   or   test.csv
<output_file> is the path and DOS filename of the .pdb file to create
          examples: c:\temp\test.pdb   or   test.pdb
<database_name> is the name of the database that will appear on the Pilot
          examples: TestDB   or TestDatabase
<optional_info_file> is optional parameter, if you have an separate
          'information' file saved for the this database.
          examples: c:\temp\test.ifo   or   test.ifo

For JFile->csv use:
jconv.exe 2 <input_file> <output_file> <optional_info_file>

<input_file> is the path and DOS filename of the .pdb to convert
       examples: c:\temp\test.csv or   test.csv
<output_file> is the path and DOS filename of the .csv file to create
       examples: c:\temp\test.pdb or   test.pdb
<optional_info_file> is optional parameter, if you would like to create
       an 'info' file containing formatting and such from the database
       examples: c:\temp\test.ifo or test.ifo

Note: Keep in mind that once you convert a file from csv to pdb, if you want to send it to your Pilot, you will need to use the hotsync install tool, which is discussed further in the Pilot documentation.

Example Usage

Example 1

Let's say you have a JFile .pdb file that you want to convert to .csv. The file is called cds.pdb. The call to convert this is one of the following:

jconv.exe 2 cds.pdb cds.csv

Or if you want to have the option info file created:

jconv.exe 2 cds.pdb cds.csv cds.ifo

The cds.ifo file that is created is useful if you should change the content of the .csv file and wish to keep as much of the other formatting and field type information still intact when converting back to .pdb. The format for the .ifo file is described below.

Example 2

Now lets say in the reverse situation, you have a .csv file to convert to .pdb. The .csv file is again called cds.csv, you'd use one of two methods:

jconv.exe 1 cds.csv cds.pdb CDs

Or if you have a previously saved .ifo file to go with this database:

jconv.exe 1 cds.csv cds.pdb CDs cds.ifo

The resulting .pdb file can then be installed in your Pilot just like any other .prc or .pdb file using the InstallApp program.

Your JFile .pdb's should be backed up in your Pilot/<username>/backup directory. If they are not, it is likely you have the older HotSync 1.0 which has a bug in that it only backs up a few non-ROM based app's databases - to correct this problem you need to upgrade to HotSync 1.1 or later or the Generic Conduit Manager from Pat Beirne.

Note: Converters that worked for version 1.6B and prior versions of JFile will NOT work correctly for version 2.0 and later of JFile. As other third party JFile .pdb converters become available, be sure that the program you are using to convert is for JFile 2.0 or later.

CSV File Format :

- top line is the field names, each separated by a comma
- each following line is a record, each field separated by a comma

The fields may be enclosed in quotes which will be removed prior to conversion to JFile .pdb format.

Be sure to follow this format, as there is only minimal error checking of the file being done at this point.

Optional Info File Format :

The following explanation may be a bit complex to read through at first, but by looking at an example when you convert from .pdb to .csv WITH an info file, you can see how it all works together.

There is also no requirement to use or to ever modify the info file you create. See the example usage section to see how it is used for more general purposes.

First Line :

Contains a number representing the type for each field NOTE: there must be 1 number for each field on this line and that the last field should not be a Boolean field

Types are as follows:

```
 1 = string
 2 = Boolean
 4 = date
 8 = int
16 = float
32 = time
64 = popup list
```

Example: for a database with 7 fields, of type: string, Boolean, date, popup list, int, float, popup list in that order would look like:

1 2 4 64 8 16 64

Second Line :

Contains the width of each field when displaying in the columnal overall database view, must be 0-160, and contain one number for each field.

Example: for a database with 7 fields each of width 80:

80 80 80 80 80 80 80

Third Line :

Contains the width of the 'data' field (in pixels) for the editing view of the database (should be in the 20 to 140 range)

Example: for a database with a data width of 90 pixel:

90

Fourth Line :

Contains which column is displayed next to the 'non-movable' first column in the database view (range of 1 to 19 - 0 = first field, 1 = second field, etc)

Example: to display the second field as the first movable column (this is the normal beginning view):

1

Fifth Line :

Contains a the word 'none' (without quotes) if no password, or a password if desired (10 characters maximum)

Sixth Line :

Contains a 1 if the database has its 'AutoLock on app exit' on, or a 0 if it does not have this feature activated

Example :

The database does not have its 'AutoLock' on app exit on:

0

Seventh Lines and on...

Contains the entries in the popup lists, each item goes on a line of its own. List are prefixed with the string "popupX" where X is the letter of the alphabet corresponding to the field number of the associated popup list (ie. A = 1, b = 2, etc...)

Example:

The following lines are an example with a popup list for field 'd' which is the 4th field, and a popup list for field 'g' which is 7th popup field

popupd
A
bb
cc
and
here
we are
popupg
1
11
33333
4444

Be sure to follow this format if you are creating or modifying such info files manually instead of letting the jconv.exe program handle them, as there is only minimal error checking of the file being done at this point.

JFile 3.x Documentation

Important Notes!

- JFile users can install this program right over top of the older one.

Features:

- NEW: Column totaling of fields
- NEW: Palm Find function compatible
- NEW: In-place editing of many fields in the column view
- NEW: Ability to make a database read-only
- Password protect access to databases
- Remembers the last sort/filter/find options performed
- Field types including popup lists, date, integer, floating point, and Boolean
- Filtering of records
- Sorting on secondary and tertiary sort fields
- Forward and reverse sorting by field (when tapping column heading twice)
- Columnar formatting when viewing a database
- Cut/Paste between fields
- Local find function in the database view
- Columnar formatting in the database view
- Export a record to MemoPad
- Duplicate a record

Limitations:

- 30 databases (1 in the unregistered version)
- field names can be no longer than 20 characters
- 20 fields per databases
- 500 characters per field of data

Creating A New Database:

To create a new database, tap the 'New DB' button. Enter the name of the database, which can be up to 30 characters in length. The next step is to select the field names for each record and the field types.

The field names can be up to 20 characters each in length, and must be continuous on the New Database screen, JFile will not permit you to leave an unnamed field in the list of field names. You may choose a different Field Type for each field, with the only restriction being that the last field in the database cannot be of type Boolean, JFile will alert you to this situation if it arises, and ask you to create another non-Boolean field after the Boolean field.

Field Types

String: this is the normal field type allowing strings of up to 500 characters to be entered in the field list.

Bool: this is the Boolean type of field type, and will appear in your databases as a checkbox that is either checked or unchecked. **NOTE: You can filter on Boolean fields using either a 0 or a 1 as the filter string.**

Date: this is the Date type of field type, and will popup a Date picking dialog box when you click on the name of the field

Time: this is the Time type of field type, and will popup a Time picking dialog box when you click on the name of the field

Popup: this is a Popup List field type. You can define the contents of the popup list once you are in the editing view of the database itself (instructions for this are listed in the Editing portion of this documentation.

Int: this is the Integer field type. Sorting on this field will be valid for integers up to approximately 9 digits in length.

Float: this is the Floating Point field type. Sorting on this field will be valid for integers up to approximately 9 digits in length.

Database Modification

You can now change the names of fields, their Field Types, as well as the database name after the database has been created. You can also add, delete, and exchange fields in the database structure. To modify a database in this way, go to the Main view in JFile, tap the Mod button, which will become highlighted, and then select the database you wish to modify.

From this screen you can Insert (Ins.) a field, Delete (Del.) a field, or Exchange (Exch.) 2 fields in the database structure. Note that on large databases some of these operations may take a while to complete.

Similarly you can change the types of Fields in this screen. Note however that if you change from non-compatible field types, you will have a loss of data. Example: you have a field with a string type with a lot of text in each record in that particular field. If you switch that to a Boolean type of field, you will lose each of those strings, and the field will be reset to allow input of a Boolean/Checkbox type of input.

Global Finds

In the App Prefs menu option, you can check or uncheck the option that will include JFile databases in the Palm OS Find function.

In Place Field Updates In Column View

In the App Prefs menu option, you can check or uncheck the option that will allow you to edit certain field types (popup lists, dates, times, and checkboxes) in the column list view of a database for quicker editing of these fields. Other field types when tapped will take you to the normal edit screen.

Viewing A Database:

While on the main view screen, tap on the title of the database you would like to view. A new screen comes up, with the title indicating which database you are in. For a new database you will see only the column/field headings.

As the number of records in your database grows, you'll find yourself scrolling down the list of records. Keep in mind that in addition to the software "line at a time" up/down arrow buttons provided by JFile, you can also use the hardware "scroll" buttons provided on your Pilot (just below the data entry area) to move not only JFile but any pilot application's data up and down a full page at a time.

Sorting a Database

While viewing a database, you can tap on any of the column headings to sort the database by that particular column/field. A menu option to sort the database with secondary and tertiary sort fields is also available.

Column Totals

JFile 3.x now supports column totals. You can click on a column title (ie. the field name), and you will be presented with a list of options, one of which is Column Totals. By click on this, you will the totals for that particular column. For integers and floating point numbers, the total will show the number of records and the total of the numbers. For checkbox/Boolean type fields, this will show you the number of checked vs. unchecked boxes. All other field types will show you the number of records in the display.

NOTE: The totals are based on the current filter, so that if you have a filter on that is showing 20 out of 40 total records, the totals will be based only on those 20 records in the filter.

Setting Up Column Widths

In the database columns view, tapping the column heading will present a drop list with one of the choices being to change the Column Width for that column.. The number that you enter into this box (0-160) will be the number of pixels allotted on the screen to that column. Note that if you make a column 0 width, it will make the column hidden, and you will need to use the Show Hidden Columns menu item to bring them back into view. Remember though that column 1 is a static column, and will not scroll left and right.

As an example, say you set each of you columns to 80 (pixels), you would see two columns on the Database view screen, each of 80 pixels, and when you scroll left or right, you would scroll 1 field to the left or right (again, the leftmost first column will remain stationary). Experiment different column widths to understand the new usage.

Horizontal Scrolling

Horizontal scroll buttons added to the database view. The first column is a non-scrollable column (this may change in a future version to allow the first column to scroll also) and any other visible column will now scroll left and right through the available fields.

Password Protection

You can now set a password for each database. This is done from the Database Prefs menu option while viewing a particular database. The password you set here can be up to 10 characters in length. It will be required to enter this password each time you try to access the database from the Main view of all the databases.

The Auto-Lock on App Exit checkbox will automatically return you to the Main view of JFile if this item is checked, and if a password has been set. What this means, is that normally, JFile will try to return you to the last position you were at in the database should you leave the application and return. If you do this with a Passworded database, you will not be asked the password, and will get instant access to the last place you were at. This checkbox, if checked, will automatically return you to the main screen if you leave the JFile application, and therefore the Password will need to be re-entered if you wish to access the database in question.

NOTE: There is no encryption being done on the data items in the database itself! The purpose of this password function is only to prevent the casual user of your Pilot from accessing you more Private data. Example: say you want to hand it to a friend to try out the Pilot, with the Password set for the database, and the Auto-Lock on, the person will not be able to access that particular database in JFile without the password you have set. Similarly, the data is not encrypted in the resultant .pdb file on the PC following a HotSync, so that it is possible to access the data in a Password Protected database after a HotSync on the PC. Again, the purpose of the password is simply to prevent the casual user of you Pilot from accessing data that you would not like them to have access to.

Adding Records To A Database:

While viewing a database, tap the 'Add' button. You will be presented with a form showing the field names, and space to enter your data. When through editing your data, tap 'Done' to save the changes, 'Cancel' to cancel them, and 'Del' if you wish to delete the record from the database.
The different field types require different methods to input data. In an integer field you are only permitted to enter numerical digits for instance. In a date field, when you try to modify it a Date Picker dialog box will be presented. Popup lists are discussed in the next section.

Working With Popup Lists

When editing a record, fields of type Popup List will appear with a Bold field name to indicate it is a popup list. You can manually enter data into the field simply by clicking on the underlined area to enter data into. You can also select from the Popup List by tapping the Bold field name and you will be presented with the current Popup List for that field. One of the list items will be Modify Popup List, which will allow you to add or delete items from the Popup List for that particular field.

Popup lists are not intended to be used for very long lists of data. There are limitations in JFile that limit each Popup List to 100 items, and each list is limited to approximately 2000 characters of data (this will likely be modified in a future version to allow lengthier popup lists).

Changing the Editing Record Format

While editing a record, you can use the Menu to increase or decrease the amount of space allotted to the data fields. Each time you tap on the menu item the data portion of the screen is incremented or decremented by 5 pixels in size. This allows you to view more or less of the field names if the data is small, and vice versa if the data is large compared to the field names.

Viewing Fields That Contain Lengthy Data:

If you have a lot of data in one field (more than 200 characters usually), and it spills of the screen, you will need to drag the cursor down the field (i.e. selecting the text) to scroll to the remainder of the data in that field. This may be modified in the future for easier usage of long data fields.

Using JFile .pdb Databases in Flash Rom

You can now use JFile .pdb databases in Flash ROM, in read-only mode, however you must be running the latest 2.10 (or later) version of TRG's Flash Builder application. Email TRG for the latest information on this application.

SQL Reference

SELECT
FROM
WHERE
GROUP BY
HAVING

SQL, Structured Query Language, is a language designed to manipulate multiple databases and extract information from them. In JFTrans, you can only query the loaded database, so those SQL commands that build or extract data from multiple databases have been removed. The prime purpose of using SQL within JFTrans is to find and organize date within the Main table of the loaded database.

This reference is a simple overview of the basic commands required to view your data in ways not possible with the Filter command. Please consult a book on SQL for more detailed information.

SQL SELECT

SELECT [Predicate] { * | Field1, Field2, ...]]} FROM TableExpression [, ...]
[WHERE...]
[GROUP BY...]
[HAVING...]
[ORDER BY...]

The SELECT statement has these parts:

Predicate
One of the following predicates: ALL, DISTINCT, or TOP. You use the predicate to restrict the number of records returned. If none is specified, the default is ALL.
*
Specifies that all fields from the specified table are selected.
Field1, Field2
The names of the fields containing the data you want to retrieve. If you include more than one field, they are retrieved in the order listed.
TableExpression
The name of the table containing the data you want to retrieve. In JFTrans, this table will always be named 'Main'.

Notes

To perform this operation, the database engine searches the specified table or tables, extracts the chosen columns, selects rows that meet the criterion, and sorts or groups the resulting rows into the order specified.

SELECT statements don't change data in the database.

SELECT is usually the first word in an SQL statement. Most SQL statements are either SELECT or SELECT...INTO statements.

The minimum syntax for a SELECT statement is:

SELECT fields FROM Main

You can use an asterisk (*) to select all fields in a table. The following example selects all of the fields in the Main table:

SELECT * FROM Main;

You can use the other clauses in a SELECT statement to further restrict and organize your returned data.

ALL, DISTINCT, TOP n, PERCENT

SELECT [ALL | DISTINCT | [TOP n [PERCENT]]] FROM Table

A SELECT statement containing these predicates has the following parts:

ALL
Assumed if you don't include one of the predicates. The database engine selects all of the records that meet the conditions in the SQL statement. The following two examples are equivalent and return all records from the Main table:

SELECT ALL *
FROM Main
ORDER BY LastName;

SELECT *
FROM Main
ORDER BY LastName;

DISTINCT
Omits records that contain duplicate data in the selected fields. To be included in the results of the query, the values for each field listed in the SELECT statement must be unique. For example, several people listed in the Main table may have the same last name. If two records contain Smith in the LastName field, the following SQL statement returns only one record that contains Smith:

SELECT DISTINCT
LastName
FROM Main;

If you omit DISTINCT, this query returns both Smith records. If the SELECT clause contains more than one field, the combination of values from all fields must be unique for a given record to be included in the results. The output of a query that uses DISTINCT isn't updateable and doesn't reflect subsequent changes.

TOP n [PERCENT]
Returns a certain number of records that fall at the top or the bottom of a range specified by an ORDER BY clause. Suppose you want the names of the top 25 students from the class of 1994:

SELECT TOP 25
FirstName, LastName
FROM Main
WHERE Year = 1994
ORDER BY Average DESC

If you don't include the ORDER BY clause, the query will return an arbitrary set of 25 records from the Main table that satisfy the WHERE clause. The TOP predicate doesn't choose between equal values. In the preceding example, if the twenty-fifth and twenty-sixth highest averages are the same, the query will return 26 records. You can also use the PERCENT reserved word to return a certain percentage of records that fall at the top or the bottom of a range specified by an ORDER BY clause. Suppose that, instead of the top 25 students, you want the bottom 10 percent of the class:

SELECT TOP 10 PERCENT
FirstName, LastName
FROM Main
WHERE Year = 1994
ORDER BY Average ASC

The ASC predicate specifies a return of bottom values. The value that follows TOP must be an unsigned Integer. TOP doesn't affect whether or not the query is updateable.

SQL FROM

Specifies the tables or queries that contain the fields listed in the SELECT statement.

SELECT Fieldlist
FROM TableExpression

A SELECT statement containing a FROM clause has these parts:

Fieldlist
The name of the field or fields to be retrieved along with any field-name aliases, SQL aggregate functions, selection predicates (ALL, DISTINCT, DISTINCTROW, or TOP), or other SELECT statement options.
TableExpression
An expression that identifies the table from which data is retrieved. In JFTrans the table is always referenced as 'Main'.

Notes

FROM is required and follows any SELECT statement.

The following example shows how you can retrieve data from the Main table:

SELECT LastName, FirstName
FROM Main;

SQL WHERE

Specifies which records from the tables listed in the FROM clause are affected by a SELECT statement.

SELECT Fieldlist
FROM TableExpression
WHERE Criteria

A SELECT statement containing a WHERE clause has these parts:

Fieldlist
The name of the field or fields to be retrieved along with any selection predicates (ALL, DISTINCT, or TOP), or other SELECT statement options.
TableExpression
The name of the table or tables from which data is retrieved, always 'Main' in JFTrans.
Criteria
An expression that records must satisfy to be included in the query results.

Notes

The database engine selects the records that meet the conditions listed in the WHERE clause. If you don't specify a WHERE clause, your query returns all rows from the table.

WHERE is optional, but when included, follows FROM. For example, you can select all employees in the sales department (WHERE Dept = 'Sales') or all customers between the ages of 18 and 30 (WHERE Age Between 18 And 30).

WHERE is similar to HAVING. WHERE determines which records are selected. Similarly, once records are

grouped with GROUP BY, HAVING determines which records are displayed.

Use the WHERE clause to eliminate records you don't want grouped by a GROUP BY clause.

Use various expressions to determine which records the SQL statement returns. For example, the following SQL statement selects all employees whose salaries are more than $21,000:

SELECT LastName, Salary
FROM Main
WHERE Salary > 21000;

A WHERE clause can contain up to 40 expressions linked by logical operators, such as And and Or.

When you enter a field name that contains a space or punctuation, surround the name with brackets ([ ]). For example, a customer information table might include information about specific customers :

SELECT [Customer's Favorite Restaurant]

When you specify the criteria argument, date literals must be in U.S. format, even if you're not using the U.S. version of the database engine. For example, May 10, 1996, is written 10/5/96 in the United Kingdom and 5/10/96 in the United States. Be sure to enclose your date literals with the number sign (#) as shown in the following examples.

To find records dated May 10, 1996 in a United Kingdom database, you must use the following SQL statement:

SELECT *
FROM Main
WHERE ShippedDate = #5/10/96#;

Be sure to include the nested braces and hyphens as shown.

SQL GROUP BY

Combines records with identical values in the specified field list into a single record.

SELECT Fieldlist
FROM Table
WHERE Criteria
[GROUP BY GroupFieldlist]

A SELECT statement containing a GROUP BY clause has these parts:

Fieldlist
The name of the field or fields to be retrieved along with any selection predicates (ALL, DISTINCT, or TOP), or other SELECT statement options.
Table
The name of the table from which records are retrieved. For more information, see the FROM clause.
Criteria
Selection criteria. If the statement includes a WHERE clause, the database engine groups values after applying the WHERE conditions to the records.
GroupFieldlist
The names of up to 10 fields used to group records. The order of the field names in groupfieldlist determines the grouping levels from the highest to the lowest level of grouping.

Notes

GROUP BY is optional.

Summary values are omitted if there is no SQL aggregate function in the SELECT statement.

Null values in GROUP BY fields are grouped and aren't omitted. However, Null values aren't evaluated in any SQL aggregate function.

Use the WHERE clause to exclude rows you don't want grouped, and use the HAVING clause to filter records after they've been grouped.

The database engine cannot group on Memo fields.

All fields in the SELECT field list must either be included in the GROUP BY clause.

SQL HAVING

Specifies which grouped records are displayed in a SELECT statement with a GROUP BY clause. After GROUP BY combines records, HAVING displays any records grouped by the GROUP BY clause that satisfy the conditions of the HAVING clause.

SELECT Fieldlist
FROM Table
WHERE SelectCriteria
GROUP BY GroupFieldlist
[HAVING GroupCriteria]

A SELECT statement containing a HAVING clause has these parts:

Fieldlist
The name of the field or fields to be retrieved along with any selection predicates (ALL, DISTINCT, or TOP), or other SELECT statement options.
Table
The name of the table from which records are retrieved. In JFTrans this is always 'Main'. See the FROM clause.
SelectCriteria
Selection criteria. If the statement includes a WHERE clause, the database engine groups values after applying the WHERE conditions to the records.
GroupFieldlist
The names of up to 10 fields used to group records. The order of the field names in GroupFieldlist determines the grouping levels from the highest to the lowest level of grouping.
GroupCriteria
An expression that determines which grouped records to display.

Notes

HAVING is optional.

HAVING is similar to WHERE, which determines which records are selected. After records are grouped with GROUP BY, HAVING determines which records are displayed:

SELECT CategoryID,
FROM Main
GROUP BY CategoryID
HAVING Sum(UnitsInStock) > 100 And Like "BOS*";

A HAVING clause can contain up to 40 expressions linked by logical operators, such as And and Or.

Future Plans

These are some of the features I plan to add in new releases of **JFTrans**, some of which may appear quite soon, and others in a 2.xx release.

- Add support for network drives. The current version does allow you to log onto network resources to Import PDB files from another machine for example.

- Add a print engine with user definable reports. This addition is not in fact as difficult as it might appear, and will more than likely turn up fairly soon