

TUTORIAL 1 - UPDATING A QUARKXPRESS DOCUMENT



DEMONSTRATION EDITION



Please Consider

If you have not already done so, it might be helpful for you to have a read through the LinkUP! User Manual either before you perform this tutorial or afterwards. In particular the Concepts Chapter will help you to get a better grasp of the terminology and technologies involved. The manual also contains explanations of the various LinkUP! Palettes that will be used during this tutorial. The LinkUP! User Manual has been included in your download or on the CD-ROM.

For this tutorial our data source will be locally stored LinkDB files. These are database files created from ASCII text files using our LinkDB utility. The LinkDB Utility is available free of charge and can be found on the MC Research Website and the LinkUP! CD-ROM. Again, a fuller explanation of LinkDB and working with ASCII text files is provided in the Manual.

Tutorial 1 - Updating a QuarkXPress Document

Overview

In this tutorial you will see LinkUP! automatically update information directly onto QuarkXPress pages. You will also be able to see that LinkUP! places no restrictions on your page layout. This is extremely powerful as it means that LinkUP! can find and update your prices, part numbers, specifications, pictures etc. and any other XPress element regardless of their location and association in your publication.

The fastest way to see the speed, power and accuracy of LinkUP! is to watch it in action on an actual QuarkXPress page, in this case a catalogue page but I'm sure you can translate this to whatever type of publication you produce. For the purpose of this Tutorial we have prepared an XPress document and the associated database for you in advance.

Requirements

LinkUP! 68k XTension for Macintosh

- QuarkXPress 3.32r5 or 4.03
- System 7.5
- 32MB RAM with at least 8MB assigned to QuarkXPress

LinkUP! PPC XTension for Macintosh

- QuarkXPress 3.32r5 or 4.03
- System 7.6 or 8.0
- 32MB RAM with at least 10MB assigned to QuarkXPress

Updaters for both QuarkXPress 3.32v5 and version 4.03 have been included on the CD in the 3rd Party Folder. These are also available from Quark's Website (www.quark.com). Although LinkUP! will run without both of these Updaters, there are several known bugs in the non-updated versions of XPress that will adversely affect LinkUP! 7s performance and could compromise your document's integrity. We would therefore strongly recommend installing the appropriate Updater.

Installation

You will need the **LinkUP! 7 LinkDB Demo** XTension installed to be able to work through these tutorials successfully. This is achieved as follows;

What do you Install?

When you install LinkUP! on a computer alongside a copy of XPress the main LinkUP! program effectively becomes part of your copy of XPress.

A new menu, 'LinkUP' appears at the right-hand end of your QuarkXPress menubar as below.



You will require the following components for this tutorial;

- LinkUP! 7 LinkDB Demo XTension
- Tutorial Files

The first thing you need to do is copy these components from the LinkUP! CD-ROM to your hard disk (If you downloaded the demo then this will not be necessary so skip to the *Installing the XTension* section below).

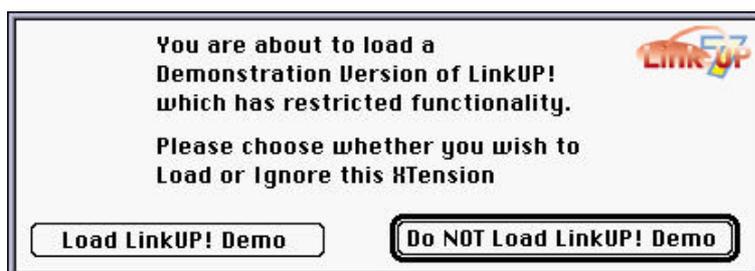
1. Insert the CD-ROM into the disk drive
2. Copy the LinkUP Folder into a location of your choice on your computer

Installing the XTension

With all the files now installed onto your hard disk it is now necessary to copy the LinkUP! XTension into the **QuarkXPress/XTensions** folder. This will cause LinkUP! to be automatically loaded when QuarkXPress is loaded.

3. Locate the **QuarkXPress/XTensions** folder on your hard disk.
4. Locate the **LinkUP! 7 LinkDB Demo** XTension file either from within the **LinkUP!/Program Files/LinkUP! 7 XT LinkDB (ASCII)** folder you have just copied to your hard disk or from within your download.
5. Copy the **LinkUP! 7 LinkDB Demo** file into the **QuarkXPress/XTensions** folder

Provided you followed the instructions above correctly you have now installed the LinkUP! XTension on your computer. To verify that the LinkUP! XTension is correctly installed where QuarkXPress will recognise it, you should now try and load XPress in the normal manner. If everything has installed correctly, then you will see an alert similar to the one below, as soon as XPress loads.



Making it Happen

All the files necessary for the successful completion of Tutorial1 are located in the **Tutorial1** Folder that you downloaded or copied from the CD-ROM to your hard disk during the installation. The only exception to this are the pictures, which are located in the **Pictures1** Folder.

1. Launch QuarkXPress with the LinkUP! XTension properly loaded as specified above
2. Locate and open the **Tutorial1** document that was copied across during the installation (it's located in the **Tutorial Files/Tutorial1/Documents** Folder)

If you take a look at the document you will see we have a typical catalogue page containing all of the types of elements you'd expect to see. Pictures, prices, feature lists, call outs, logos, etc.

3. Switch LinkUP! on by selecting **LinkUP!** from the **Utilities Menu**.

You will notice that most of the elements on the XPress page now have underlines. These underlines signify that the underlined elements are linked in some way to an item in a database. In other words LinkUP! knows and understands the relevance of each element. These underlined items have been 'marked up'. You can learn how this is achieved in **Tutorial 2 - Preparing a document for LinkUP!**

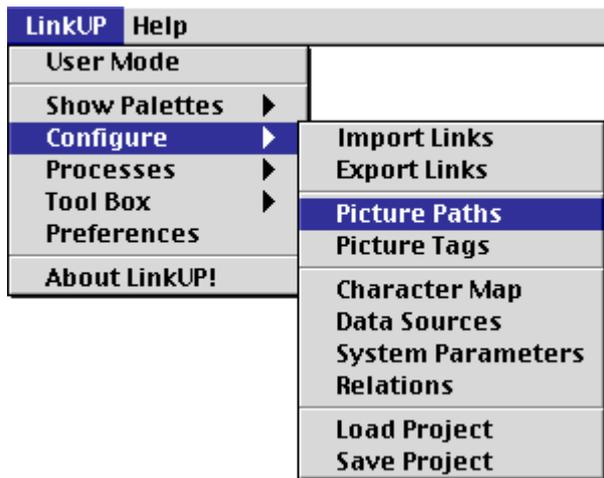
Before we update the page it is necessary to tell LinkUP! where both the pictures and the data you wish to work with are located. LinkUP! works with absolute paths so when you downloaded or copied the files from your CD-ROM to your hard disk, the paths changed. We'll start with the picture paths.

Setting up Picture Paths

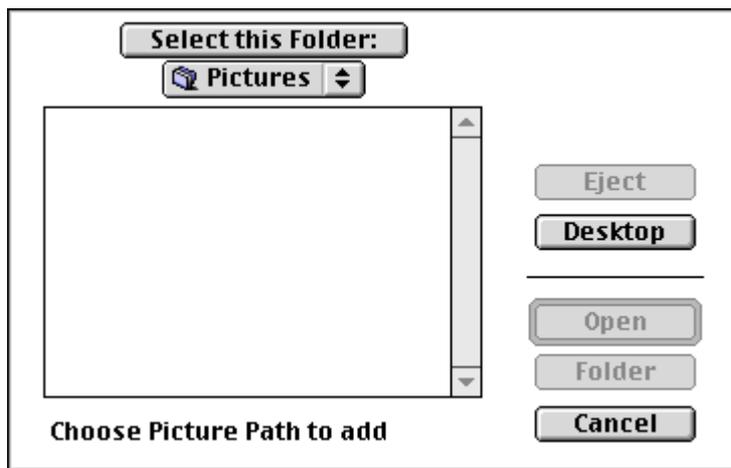
An unlimited number of picture paths can be set for any one document so you can point LinkUP! to use Low Res. pictures during the design stage and then point it to the High Res. images on your OPI server when the time comes to output the film.

To configure your picture paths;

4. From the LinkUP! Menu, select **Configure Picture Paths**



5. Click the Add button
6. Browse your computer to find the location of the pictures. (They will be located in the **Tutorial Files/Pictures1** Folder copied to your hard disk during the installation)
7. Click the **Select Current Folder** Button. You will see that the new picture path has been added.



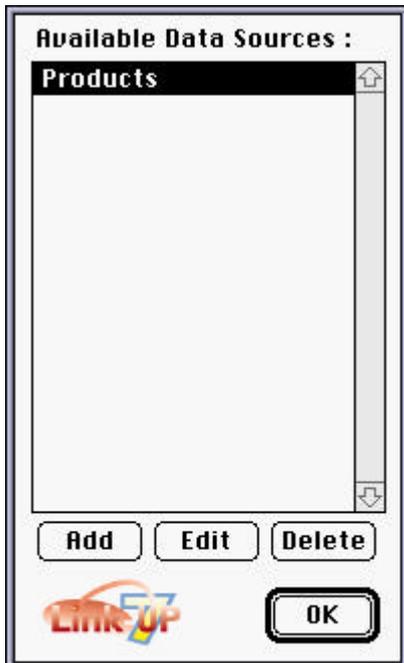
8. Click the **OK** button

Setting up the Data Sources

The next process is to tell LinkUP! where to find the data needed for updating the document. As you are working with LinkDB files it is simply a case of letting LinkUP! know which Folder contains the LinkDB file. LinkUP! comes with a 'learn' feature that gives it the ability to learn all of the necessary information about a data source without you having to type it all in. We'll use this function now.

To select your data source;

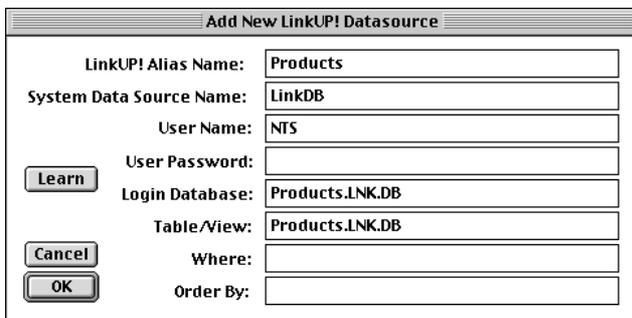
9. From the LinkUP! menu select **Configure Data Sources**



10. Select the **Products** Data Source

11. Click the **Edit** Button

You are now presented with a dialogue similar to the one below;



12. Click the **Learn** Button

13. You will now need to locate your **Data** Folder (located in the **Tutorial1/Data** Folder)

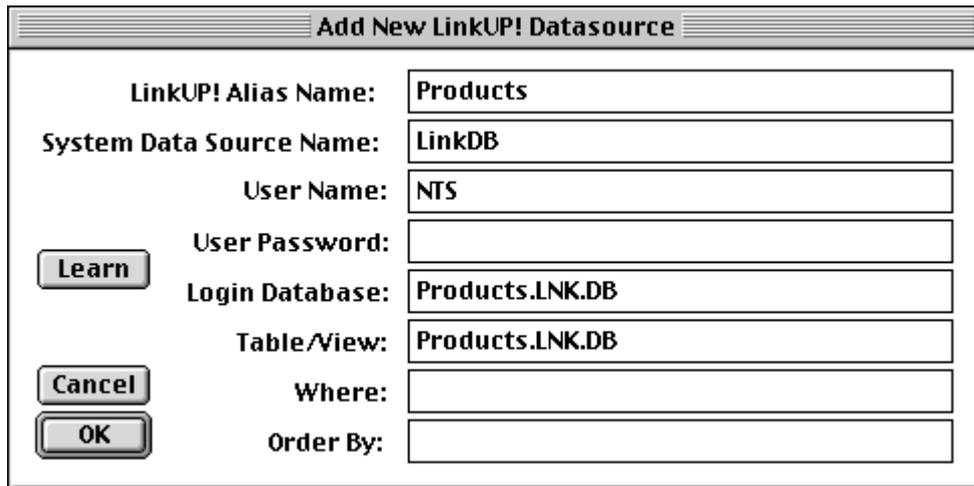
14. Click either the **Use Currently Open Folder** Button if you are inside the **Data** folder, otherwise highlight the data folder and click the **Use Highlighted Folder** Button

NB. YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEE THE AVAILABLE FILES IN THIS BROWSE WINDOW, BUT THEY ARE THERE.

Providing you have chosen the correct location, you are now presented with a list of LinkDB files located in this folder. In this case there is just the one, **Products.LNK.DB**

15. Select this and click the **Open** button

LinkUP! has now automatically re-configured itself to the new location of the data source. Your dialogue will look similar to this apart from the Login Database will contain your local path to the data.



Add New LinkUP! Datasource	
LinkUP! Alias Name:	Products
System Data Source Name:	LinkDB
User Name:	NTS
User Password:	
Login Database:	Products.LNK.DB
Table/View:	Products.LNK.DB
Where:	
Order By:	

Buttons: Learn, Cancel, OK

16. Click the **OK** button on this dialogue

17. Click the **OK** button on the **Available Data Sources** dialogue to finish

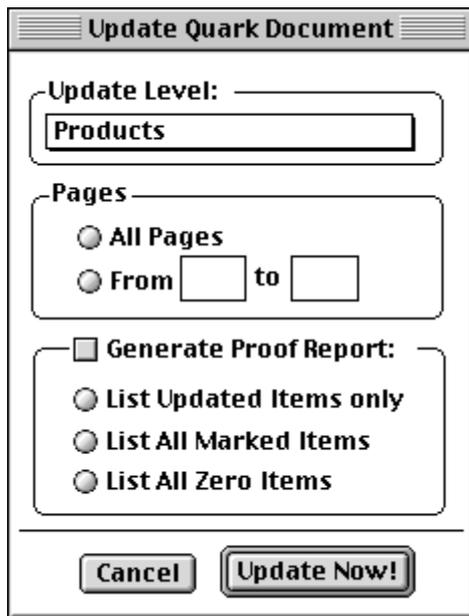
Updating the Document

All of the initial configuration is complete. LinkUP! knows where the pictures are stored and also where the Data Source is located. These two actions are one-off actions. You need only perform these two configurations once. You are now ready to update the QuarkXPress document.

18. From the LinkUP! menu select **Show Palettes Data Viewer**

19. Click the Update button  on the Data Viewer Palette

A dialogue will appear as below;

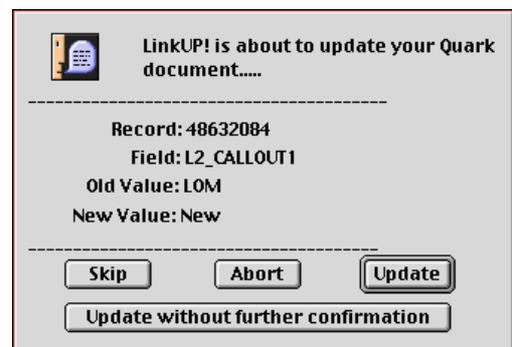


We are about to see LinkUP! use this database to update the QuarkXPress page to reflect the information held in our database for each product on the page. The process is very fast...

20. Click the **Update Now!** Button

LinkUP! will present its **LinkUP! is about to Update** windows, allowing you to observe and confirm each individual update. For now we will just proceed with the process automatically.

21. Click the **Update without further confirmation** button and watch LinkUP! do the hard work!!



Notice how the real prices, pictures and descriptions have been brought onto the page. Notice also some of the more intricate details that LinkUP! has taken care of. The currency symbol in front of the prices, the currency units have been place in superscript automatically. Even the feature list has had bullets place in front of each bullet point. All of the styling on the XPress page is maintained unless you specifically ask LinkUP! to do otherwise.

These simple steps you have just performed demonstrate the speed, power and accuracy of LinkUP! in updating QuarkXPress documents from database information. Regardless of the number of updates, pages, or locations of updated information, LinkUP! performs pricing changes, version or zone changes, specification changes or description changes this quickly and easily every time.

That's all that is required for a full database update using LinkUP!. As you have seen, this is an extremely fast process - typically 2000 page elements can be updated in under 2 minutes.

Further Tutorials

There are currently five Tutorial Files available for LinkUP! 7;

- Tutorial 1 - Updating a QuarkXPress Document
- Tutorial 2 - Template Building
- Tutorial 3 - Preparing a document for LinkUP!
- Tutorial 4 - Building Documents from Single Templates
- Tutorial 5 - Building Documents from Multiple Templates

Please keep an eye on the MC Research web site for new Tutorials covering a range of applications for LinkUP! including;

- Creating a Directory
- Creating Retail Flyers
- Using LinkUP! with Holiday Brochures
- Creating Property Guides

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