

StormWarden ComicTrac Help

[Warranty](#) [Registration](#) [License](#)

Introduction

This section provides you with an overview of ComicTrac, and a list of features the program supports.

Using ComicTrac Help

This section provides you with instructions on how to use the ComicTrac help system.

Using ComicTrac

This section provides you with step-by-step instructions on using ComicTrac.

ComicTrac Window Descriptions

This section provides you with descriptions of the windows ComicTrac uses.

ComicTrac Tips and Tricks

This section provides you with tips and tricks which can make using ComicTrac easier.

Credits and Technical Support

This section provides you with technical support information.

Introduction

Overview:

Welcome to ComicTrac, a new and exciting product from StormWarden Enterprises. ComicTrac allows you to enter your entire comic collection into an easy to use and maintain database. A must for comic collectors, ComicTrac is perfect for small and large comic collections, replacing hard to maintain paper records. Once you place your information in ComicTrac, you can:

- Search for specific comics or range of comics.
- Print or display reports which give you information about your comic collection.
- Continue to add comics, delete comics, change comics, and otherwise maintain your comic collection with ease.


ComicTrac features include:

- ComicTrac's Find window which allows you to enter any combination of information to quickly access the comics you want to see.
- ComicTrac's Summary window which allows you to view the results of the Find window's actions, giving you a quick summary of information. You can then choose comics for which you want to view detailed information.
- ComicTrac's Comic window which displays detailed information about comics you choose on the Summary window. This window also allows you to add, delete, and change comics.
- ComicTrac's Report window which allows you to choose one of several different reports which give you information about your entire collection. You can view the report on your computer screen, or print it to a Windows supported printer.
- ComicTrac's Help system which provides you with quick answers to any questions you may have about ComicTrac.

Jump to the Same Window - Example

This topic displays in the same window where you clicked the green, underlined text.

To return to the previous topic:

1. Click . The previous topic displays in the window.

Jump to Another Window - Example

 Close

This topic displays in a new window next to the window where you clicked the green, underlined text.

To return to the previous topic:

1. Click  to close this window.

Popup Example

This shows an example of a popup.

To close a popup:

1. Click anywhere on the screen.

Hot Spotted Pictures - Example

The picture you clicked performed a popup. Hot spotted pictures usually perform popups, but can sometimes perform jumps.

Using ComicTrac Help

This topic gives a general description of how to use the ComicTrac help system. If you do not know how to use a standard Windows help system already, select the **How to Use Help** option from the **Help** menu to view Microsoft's help file on using Windows help.

The ComicTrac help system supports all standard Windows help functions. A quick review of standard help functions follows:

Context Sensitive Help

Context sensitive help gives you help on any field on the window. To access this help:

1. Click in the field for which you want information.
2. Press F1. A popup appears with help on the field.
3. Click the mouse to close the popup.

Help Button on the Toolbar

- Click this button to get help on the currently open window. If no window is open, this brings up the main contents page.

Jumps


Jumps take you to another place in the help. ComicTrac Help highlights a jump as green, underlined text. A jump can do two things in ComicTrac Help.

1. Jump you to a topic in the same window. Click here to see an example of a jump to the same window.
2. Jump to a topic in another window. Click here to see an example of a jump to another window.



Popups

Popups display a small window with brief information, usually about a glossary term, or a field on the window. ComicTrac Help highlights a popup as green, dotted underlined text. Click here to see an example of a popup.

Hot Spotted Pictures

Hot spotted pictures are pictures which do something when you click on them. You can tell a picture has a hot spot when you move the mouse cursor over it. If the picture has a hot spot, the mouse pointer arrow changes to a hand. Click the left mouse button to activate the hotspot. Click the picture to see an example of a hot spot --> .

Browse Buttons

The   (browse buttons) are located at the top of the main Help window. When ComicTrac Help has a browse sequence associated with a topic, one or both of the browse buttons activate. Click the buttons to browse through related topics.

You have now read about standard help features which ComicTrac supports. If you need more information, please read Microsoft's help file on using Windows help.

Using ComicTrac

ComicTrac uses a simple, intuitive interface which enables you to maintain your comic collection with ease. The following topics describe how to use the interface to maintain your collection.

Viewing Comic Information

This topic describes how to search for and view information in your comic collection.

Adding Comics

This topic describes how to add comics to your collection.

Changing Comics

This topic describes how to change information for comics you previously entered.

Deleting Comics

This topic describes how to delete comics from your collection.

Printing Reports

This topic describes how to print the different reports.

Backing Up and Repairing the Database

This topic describes how to repair and backup the ComicTrac database.

Viewing Comic Information

This topic describes how to find and view information from your comic collection. The only limit to the number of ways to search for information is how thorough you were when you entered your comics. The more information you put into ComicTrac, the more useful ComicTrac is.


Viewing comic information contains three steps:

1. Searching for the comic or range of comics.
2. Viewing a summary of the results of search on the Summary window.
3. Viewing the specific comics on the Comic Information window.

Finding Comics

Use ComicTrac's Find window to search for information. You can enter information in each field on the window. The more information you enter, the more specific the search. If you leave the Find window blank, ComicTrac finds all comics in the collection.

To find a comic or range of comics:


1. Click . The Find window appears.
2. Enter information into the fields on the window. The Find window uses the information you type as a wildcard. For example, typing the letter "a" in the **Series** field finds all series which begin with "a".

Once you enter all the information, you must view the results on the Summary window.

Viewing the Results

Once you fill in your information on the Find window, you view the results on the Summary window.

To access the Summary window:

1. Click . The Summary window displays.

The Summary window displays the results of your search in a table. If you want to view more detailed information about the comics on the Summary window, you must view them on the Comic Information window.

Getting Detailed Information


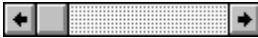
Use the Comic Information window to view detailed information about the comics your search found.

To view more detailed information:

1. Move the mouse pointer to the left side of the Summary window until it is over the row you want to view more information for. The mousepointer changes to a checkmark.
2. Click the row you want to view more information for. This highlights the row.

Repeat steps 1 and 2 until you select all the rows for which you want to view more information.

Note: For instructions on using , see the Summary window description.

3. Click  once you select your rows. The Comic Information window displays.
4. Use  to move through the selected comics.

Adding Comics

This topic describes how to add comics using ComicTrac. When you enter comics into ComicTrac, you must enter as much information as possible to make full use of the database.

There are two ways to add comics in ComicTrac:


1. Add comics one at a time.
2. Use the Group Add option.


Adding Comics One at a Time

This is the simplest method to enter comics. It is also the most time consuming, so if you want to add several consecutive comics within the same series, see the "Adding Comics Using Group Add" section.

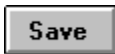
To add comics one at a time:

1. Click . The Comic Information window appears.

Note: If you are adding comics to an empty database, you must click . ComicTrac automatically takes you to the Comic Information window.

2. Click . ComicTrac puts the Comic Information window into Add mode.
3. Enter your information on the Comic Information window. See Entering Information in ComicTrac for different methods of entering information.


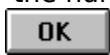

Note: You must have a valid **Publisher, Series, Comic#, Condition, Value** and **Print#** to successfully add a comic.

4. Click . ComicTrac informs you if the save was successful. If there was an error, fix the information and repeat step 4.

Adding Comics Using Group Add

Use the Group Add option to add consecutive groups of comics. For example, if you have the first 10 comics of a series, and you know they have the same condition and value, you can use Group Add to add all 10 at once.

To use the Group Add:

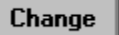
1. Follow the first three steps of the above "Adding Comics One at a Time" section.
2. Click . The Group Add window appears.
3. Enter the number range of the comics you wish to enter. For example, 1 to 10.
4. Click  to begin the group add. The blue status bar shows you the progress. If a comic in your number range already exists in the database, ComicTrac gives you the option of overwriting the comic. Click  to overwrite the previous comic. Once overwritten, there is no way to get the old information back. Each comic in the Group Add contains the same **Publisher, Series, Comic#, Condition, Value, Print#, Writer, Pencils/Inks**, and **Colorist**. After you add a group, you should go back and edit the comics to add or change any of the information.


Changing Comics

This topic describes how to change information already entered in the database. For example, when the value of a comic changes, you need to go into ComicTrac to change it to the new value.


To change a comic:

1. View the comic you want to change on the Comic Information window. See [Viewing Comic Information](#) for step-by-step instructions on viewing comics.

 **Change**

2. Click . The ComicTrac Information window enters change mode.
3. Enter information in the fields you want to change. See Entering Information in ComicTrac for instructions on entering information.


Note: When you edit a comic, you cannot change the **Publisher, Series** or **Comic#**. If these are incorrect, you must delete the comic and [re-add the comic](#).

4. Click  **Close** to save the changed comic. A message appears telling you the changes were successful. If there are any errors, repeat steps 3 to 4.

Deleting Comics

This topic describes how to delete comics using ComicTrac. Once you delete a comic, you cannot recover it unless you have a backup of the database.

To delete a comic:

1. View the comic you want to delete on the Comic Information window. See [Viewing Comic Information](#) for step-by-step instructions on viewing comics.
2. Click . ComicTrac checks to ensure you want to delete the comic, then deletes it from the database.

If you deleted a comic you need back, either copy your backup of the database over the original, or [re-add the comic](#).

Printing Reports

This topic describes how to print the ComicTrac reports. Reports give you up to date information on your comic collection.

ComicTrac Report Definitions

There are three different reports you can use to get information about your comic collection.



1. **Collection Total** - This report prints the total value of your collection, broken down by Publisher and Series. This report is only as accurate as the information you enter into the database.
2. **Top Ten Comics** - This report prints the top ten comics by value in your collection.
3. **Need and Replace List** - This report prints the comics you need for your collection. This includes any gaps numerically in your collection as well as any comics which are below a condition you specify. For example, you may want to get a report on any comics in your collection whose condition is less than "FN".

Note: If the first comic number you enter for a series is "300", then Need and Replace does not indicate you need "1 to 299". ComicTrac finds gaps. If you have comic "1" and then "300", ComicTrac indicates you need "2 to 299".


Printing ComicTrac Reports

You can print any one of the reports either to a window, or to any Windows printer.


To print a report:

1. Select the **Print** option from the **File** menu.
2. Click which report you want to print.
3. If you are printing the Needs List report, you can enter information in the bottom half of the window to specify **Publisher, Series** and **Conditions**. See the [Print Report Window Description](#) for more information.
4. Click **Window** or **Printer** to indicate where you want ComicTrac to print the information.
5. If you want to print to a printer, click  to ensure your printer is setup correctly.
6. Click  to print the information.

If you print to a window:

- Use  at the bottom of the window to scroll through the pages.

If you print to the printer:

- You can click  at any time to cancel the printing.

Backing Up and Repairing the Database

This topic describes how to backup and repair your ComicTrac database. The database file ends with a ".mdb" extension, and is located in the "data" directory of your ComicTrac directory.

Repairing the Database

There is a possibility that your ComicTrac database can become corrupted. If this happens, you need to repair the database.

To repair the database:

1. Ensure both the Comic Information window and Summary window are closed.
2. Select **Repair Database** from the **Tools** menu. ComicTrac attempts to repair the database.
3. If the repair fails, you must restore a backup of the database.

Backing up the Database

You should back up the database at least once a month, to ensure that if something happens to the database, you do not lose your information. When ComicTrac backs up the database, it also compacts it to save hard drive space.

To backup the database:

1. Ensure both the Comic Information window and Summary window are closed.
2. Select **Backup Database** from the **Tools** menu. ComicTrac backs up the database. ComicTrac names your old database "COMBAK.MDB" and places it in the same directory as your other data files.

Restoring a Backup of the Database

If a repair fails, or you accidentally erase your main database file, you have to restore a previously made backup.

To restore the backup:

1. Exit ComicTrac.
2. Enter your Windows File Manager.
3. Rename the "COMBAK.MDB" file in your data directory as "COMTRAC.MDB".
4. Run ComicTrac.

ComicTrac Window Descriptions

This topic gives you a high level description of the ComicTrac windows.

Find Window

You use this window to enter information which ComicTrac can use to search the database. For example, if you need to find all comics which have the word "mutants" in the title, you can enter this information and view the results on the summary window.

- [Click here to view more information about the Find window.](#)

Summary Window

You use this window to view the results the Find window returns. ComicTrac displays the results on the Summary window in a table. You can click rows on the Summary window and view more information about the rows on the Comic Information window.

- [Click here to view more information about the Summary window.](#)

Comic Information Window

You use this window to view detailed information on rows you selected on the Summary window. You also use this window to add, change and delete comics.

- [Click here to view more information about the Comic Information window.](#)

Print Reports Window

You use this window to print ComicTrac's custom reports. You can print reports to a window or to your printer. For some reports, you can specify a **Publisher**, **Series**, and **Condition** to limit the comics printed.

- [Click here to view more information about the Print Reports window.](#)

Find Window Description


Use this window to search for comics in the ComicTrac database. The more information you put on the Find window, the more narrow the search.

Using the Find Window

To access the Find window:

1. Click . The Find window appears.

To use the Find window:

1. Enter information on the Find window. See Entering Information in ComicTrac for instructions on entering information on windows.
2. Click  to access the Summary window.

The Find Window Contains the Following:

Main Information:

Publisher

Series

Comic#

Additional Find Information:

Story

Pencils/Inks

Colorist

First Appearance

First Appearance (Full)

Appearance By


Death Of

Comments

Publisher

This shows the name of the publisher for which you want to search.


To enter a publisher:

1. Click . A list of the publishers in the ComicTrac database appears.
2. Click the publisher name you want to search for.
For example, click "Marvel" to select Marvel comics as the publisher.

Series

This shows the name of the series for which you want to search.

To enter a series:

1. Click . A list of the series in the ComicTrac database appears.
2. Click the series name you want to search for.
For example, click "ComicTrac Guy" to select ComicTrac Guy as the comic series for which you want to search.

Comic#

This shows the comic number for which you want to search.

To enter a comic number:

1. Click in the **Comic#** box.
2. Type the number for which you want to search.

For example, if you want to find all number "1"s in your collection, enter the number "1".

Story

This shows the name of the writer of the story for which you want to search.

To enter the writer information:

1. Click in the **Story** box.
2. Type the name or part of a name for which you want to search.

If you want to find all comics where Marv Wolfman wrote the story, type "Wolfman" in the box.

Pencils/Inks

This shows the names of the penciller and inker for the comics you want to search for.

To enter the pencils/inks information:

1. Click in the **Pencils/Inks** box.
2. Type the name or part of a name for which you want to search.

Colorist

This shows the name of the colorist for the comics you want to search for.

To enter the colorist information:

1. Click in the **Colorist** box.
2. Type the name or part of a name for which you want to search.

First Appearance

This shows the name of a character who had a first appearance in the comics you want to search for.

To enter the first appearance information:

1. Click in the **First Appearance** box.
2. Type the name or part of a name for which you want to search.

First Appearance (Full)

This shows the name of a character who had a first full appearance in the comics you want to search for.

To enter the first full appearance information:

1. Click in the **First Appearance (Full)** box.
2. Type the name or part of a name for which you want to search.

Appearance By

This shows the name of a character who had an appearance in the comics you want to search for.

To enter the appearance information:

1. Click in the **Appearance By** box.
2. Type the name or part of a name for which you want to search.

Death Of

This shows the name of a character who died in the comics you want to search for.

To enter the death of information:

1. Click in the **Death Of** box.
2. Type the name or part of a name for which you want to search.

Comments

This shows any miscellaneous comic information you want to search for.

To enter the comments information:


1. Click in the **Comments** box.
2. Type the information for which you want to search.

Summary Window Description


Use this window to view summary information of the comics you searched for with the Find window. You can select comics on this window and view more detailed information on the Comic Information window.

Using the Summary Window

To access the Summary window:

1. Click . The Summary window appears.

To use the Summary window:

1. Select the comics for which you want more information. See the **Getting Detailed Information** section in the [Viewing Comic Information](#) topic for step-by-step instructions on selecting comics.
2. Click  to access the Comic Information window.

The Summary Window Contains the Following:




Publisher

Series

Comic#

Box

Type

- Click  to select all comics on the Summary window.
- Click  to select all comics which are between two other selected comics.
- Click  to remove selection from all comics on the Summary window.

Publisher

This shows the name of the publisher for the comic in the current row. For example, if "Marvel" is in the column, this indicates "Marvel" is the publisher for the comic.

Series

This shows the name of the series for the comic in the current row.

Comic#

This shows the number of the comic in the current row.

Box

This shows the name or number of the box which contains the comic in the current row.

Type

This shows the type of comic which is in the current row. The types are as follows:

- **Regular** - indicates regular series.
- **Annual** - indicates an annual comic.
- **Special** - indicates a special issue.
- **Other** - indicates a comic which does not fall under the above three.

Comic Information Window Description


Use this window to view detailed information for comics, as well as add, change and delete comics in the database.

Using the Comic Information Window


To access the Comic Information window:

1. Click . The Comic Information window appears.


To use the Comic Information window to view detailed information:

1. Select comics you want to view on the Summary window.
2. Click  to access the Comic Information window. See [Viewing Comic Information](#) for step-by-step instructions on viewing comics.


To use the Comic Information window to add comics:

1. Click . The Comic Information window sets up for the add. See [Adding Comics in ComicTrac](#) for step-by-step instructions on adding comics.

To use the Comic Information window to change comics:

1. Click . The Comic Information window sets up to change comics. See [Changing Comics in ComicTrac](#) for step-by-step instructions on changing comics.

To use the Comic Information window to delete comics:

1. Click . ComicTrac deletes the currently selected comic. See [Deleting Comics in ComicTrac](#) for more information on deleting comics.

The Comic Information Window Contains the Following:

Series Information:

[Publisher](#)

[Series](#)

[Comic#](#)

Comic Information:

[Box](#)

[Date Published](#)

[Comic Information Table](#)

[Date Updated](#)

- Click

 to move to another comic.

Miscellaneous Information:

[Story](#)

[Pencils/Inks](#)

[Colorist](#)

[First Appearance](#)

[First Appearance \(Full\)](#)

[Appearance By](#)

[Death Of](#)

Comments:


[Comments](#)

Regular
Annual
Special
Other

Publisher

This shows the name of the publisher for the displayed comic.


To enter a publisher when adding a comic:

1. Click . A list of the publishers in the ComicTrac database appears.
2. Click the publisher name you want to add a comic for.
OR
1. Type in the name of a new publisher.

Series

This shows the name of the series for the displayed comic.

To enter a series when you are adding a comic:

1. Click . A list of the series in the ComicTrac database appears.
2. Click the series name for which you want to add a comic.
OR
1. Type in the name of a new series.

Comic#

This shows the number of the displayed comic.

To enter a comic number when adding a comic:

1. Click in the **Comic#** box.
2. Type the number of the new comic.

Box

This shows the name or number of the box which contains the currently displayed comic.


To enter box information when adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the **Box** field.
2. Enter the information.

Date Published

This shows the date the currently displayed comic was published.

To enter the date published when adding or changing a comic:

1. Click  to access a list of the months.
2. Select the month in which the comic was published.
3. Click in the box next to the month selector.
4. Type in the year the comic was published.

Comic Information Table

This table shows the information used to calculate the comic's value. Each row of the table is a different comic. For example, if you have 5 copies of ComicTrac Guy #1, but two of the copies are second printing, the information could appear as follows:

Cond	Print#	Value	Copies	Total	
NM	1	\$125.00	3	\$375.00	↑
NM	2	\$25.00	2	\$50.00	
					↓

The Comic Information Table is in the center of the Comic Information Window.

The table contains the following columns:

- Cond
- Print#
- Value
- Copies
- Total

Cond

This column shows the condition of the comic for the current row. The conditions are as follows:

- **MT** - Mint
- **NM** - Near Mint
- **VF** - Very Fine
- **FN** - Fine
- **VG** - Very Good
- **GD** - Good
- **FR** - Fair
- **PR** - Poor

To enter a condition when adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the column
2. Select a condition from the drop down list.

Print#

This column shows the print number of the comic for the current row. Some comics are so popular they go through two or more printings. First prints are usually the most valuable.

To enter a value when adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the column.
2. Type the print number.

Value

This column shows the value of the comic for the current row. Value depends upon the comic, print number and condition. Use an official comic book price guide to determine the value of your comics.

To enter a value when adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the column.
2. Type the value.

Copies

This shows the number of copies of the comic for the current row. For example, you could have three near mint copies of the first printing of ComicTrac Guy number one.

To enter a value when adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the column.
2. Type the number of copies.

Total

This column shows the total value for each row. For example, if you have three near mint copies of the first printing of ComicTrac Guy #1 which are valued at \$10.00, then the total column will read \$30.00. ComicTrac automatically calculates and keeps track of this total for you.

Date Updated

This shows the date when you last changed the currently displayed comic. ComicTrac automatically updates and keeps track of this date for you.

Story

This shows the name of the writer of the story for the currently displayed comic.

To enter the writer information when adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the **Story** box.
2. Type the name of the writer for the comic.

Pencils/Inks

This shows the names of the penciller and inker for the currently displayed comic.

To enter the pencils/inks information when adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the **Pencils/Inks** box.
2. Type the names of the penciller and inker.

Colorist

This shows the name of the colorist for the currently displayed comic.

To enter the colorist information if you are adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the **Colorist** box.
2. Type the name of the colorist.

First Appearance

This shows the name of a character who had a first appearance in the currently displayed comic.

To enter the first appearance information if you are adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the **First Appearance** box.
2. Type the name of the character which had a first appearance.

First Appearance (Full)

This shows the name of a character who had a first full appearance in the currently displayed comic.

To enter the first full appearance information if you are adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the **First Appearance (Full)** box.
2. Type the name of the character which had a first full appearance.

Appearance By

This shows the name of a character who had an appearance in the currently displayed comic.

To enter the appearance information if you are adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the **Appearance By** box.
2. Type the name of the character which appeared in the comic.

Death Of

This shows the name of a character who died in the currently displayed comic.

To enter the death of information if you are adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the **Death Of** box.
2. Type the name of the character which died.

Comments

This shows any miscellaneous comic information for the currently displayed comic.

To enter the comments information if you are adding or changing a comic:

1. Click in the **Comments** box.
2. Type the information for the comic.

Regular

If selected, this indicates the currently displayed comic is part of the regular series.

To select this when adding a comic:

1. Click the Regular option.

Annual

If selected, this indicates the currently displayed comic is an annual issue for the series.

To select this when adding a comic:

1. Click the Annual option.

Special

If selected, this indicates the currently displayed comic is a special edition.

To select this when adding a comic:

1. Click the Special option.

Other

If selected, this indicates the currently displayed comic is something other than a Regular, Annual or Special comic.

To select this when adding a comic:

1. Click the Other option.

Print Report Window Description


Use this window to print ComicTrac's custom reports. The custom reports give you valuable information about your comic program.

Using the Print Report Window

To access the Print Report window:

1. Select **Print** from the **File** menu. The Print Report window appears.

To use the Print Report window:

1. Select the report you want to print. See [Printing Reports in ComicTrac](#) for instructions on selecting and printing reports.
2. Select either printing to a window, or printing to a printer.
3. Click  to start printing.

The Print Window Contains the Following:

Reports Information:

[Collection Total](#)

[Top Ten](#)

[Needs List](#)

[Description](#)

Print Options:

[Window](#)




[Printer](#)

Report Options (Needs List Report Only):

[Publisher](#)

[Series](#)

[Condition < Than](#)

- Click  to access the printer setup options.
- Click  to begin printing.
- Click  to cancel the print report and close the window.

Collection Total

This report prints the total value of your collection broken down by series.

Top Ten Report

This report prints the top ten value comics in your collection.

Needs List

This report prints which comics you need for your collection, as well as any you need to replace.

Description

This gives you a description of the currently selected report.

Window

Select this to print the report to the window.


Printer

Select this to print the report to you printer.

Publisher

This shows the name of the publisher for which you want to print the Needs List.


To enter a publisher:

1. Click . A list of the publishers in the ComicTrac database appears.
2. Click the publisher name you want to print.
For example, click "StormWarden" as the publisher for which you want to see gaps in your collection.

Series

This shows the name of the series for which you want to print the Needs List.


To enter a series:

1. Click . A list of the series in the ComicTrac database appears.
2. Click the series name you want to print for the Needs List.
For example, click "ComicTrac Guy" to select ComicTrac Guy as the comic series you want to print the needs list for.

Condition < Than

Use this to indicate which comic condition you want to include in the Needs List. For example, if you select **VF** as the condition, ComicTrac will print all comics which have a condition less than **VF**.

To select a condition:

1. Click  arrow. A list of conditions appears.
2. Click the condition for the Needs List.

Credits and Technical Support

This topic gives you information on how to contact ComicTrac technical support, and gives well deserved kudos to all those who helped make ComicTrac a reality.

Technical Support

CompuServe:

102125,3551

Internet:

heemeryp@cuug.ab.ca

Mail

Paul Heemeryck
StormWarden Enterprises
#232-10120 Brookpark Blvd S.W.
Calgary AB Canada
T2W 3G3

Technical Information:

- Each 1000 comics takes approximately 1 meg of harddrive space. Use the Backup feature to backup and compress the database once you have entered many comics.

Credits

ComicTrac Written By: Paul Heemeryck at StormWarden Enterprises

Online Help Written By: Paul Heemeryck at StormWarden Enterprises

ComicTrac Guy Design: Tim Huesken

ComicTrac Logo Design: Jason Armstrong at Bullseye Software Development

Technical Consultant: George Tomic at Hurricane Software Solutions

Business Consultant: Sean McKeag at Another Dimension Comics.

ComicTrac Tips and Tricks

This section provides tips and tricks to get the most out of ComicTrac. If you find any tips which are not listed below, please send them to one of the addresses mentioned in the [Technical Support](#) section, and we will include them in the next release.

Context Sensitive Help

- Always check the context sensitive help for the answer to your problems. Pressing the F1 key on any field will bring up short, hopefully helpful help. This was designed to provide the quickest answer.
- The popup of the help appears where you position your mousepointer, not where the field is placed on the window. Use this to popup the help "away" from the field, so the field is still visible.

Entering Comics

- You can quickly enter comics using only the following information: **Publisher, Series, Comic#, Condition, Value, Print#** and **Copies**. All other information is optional and takes time to enter. However, the more information you enter for each comic, the more valuable the ComicTrac database is to you.
- The Comments section of the comic can be extremely useful. You can use this area to enter cross over information. For example, if you preface every comment about crossovers with an abbreviation such as "x-over", then you can search for all crossovers in your collection.
- When you enter a new series name, be sure to include the date the series was originally published. This helps to distinguish series with the same names. This information is readily available from any of the major comic price guides.
- Use the **Group Add** function whenever possible. If you have 300 to 390 of a comic series, and all information is the same, use the group add to add all 90 at once. You may have to go back and edit a few comics to get everything entered correctly, but it is a big time saver.

Printing Reports

- The custom ComicTrac reports give you great information. However, once you have a significant amount of comics in the database (10,000 and up), it can take awhile to put all of the information together. Whereever possible, limit the amount of information you want to retrieve, simply for speed purposes. For example, if you want to print of a Need and Replace list for all of your comics, you should try doing it a series at a time for best speed response.

Tell Your Friends

- This product like any software product relies on sales to keep it alive. If you find the product useful, please tell a fellow comic collector. StormWarden Enterprises already has planned several enhancements to the next version, but without enough interest in this program, it will never happen.

Changes Pending

ComicTrac wants to update the Comic Information window, but you have not saved a comic you were adding. If you do not choose to save the comic, all new information will be lost.

Changes Pending

ComicTrac wants to update the Comic Information window, but you have not saved the changes for a comic you were editing. If you do not choose to save the comic, all new information will be lost.

Changes Pending

You either are closing the Comic Information window or exiting the program, and have not saved a comic you were adding. If you do not choose to save the comic, all new information will be lost.

Changes Pending

You either are closing the Comic Information window or exiting the program, and have not saved a comic you were changing. If you do not choose to save the comic, all new information will be lost.

Database Empty

ComicTrac cannot find any comics because the database is empty. All you can do is add comics. To add a comic, you must be on the Comic Information window.

No Match

There are no comics in the database which match the information you entered on the ComicTrac Find window. Re-enter your information on the Find window and try again. If you leave the Find window blank, all comics are retrieved.

Cannot Close Summary

The Summary window and Comic Information window are closely linked. You cannot close the Summary window while the Comic Information window is open. Close the Comic Information window first and then close the Summary window.

Comic Already Exists

One of the comics ComicTrac tried to add during the Group Add procedure was already in your database. You can overwrite the existing comic with the new one, skip over this comic, or cancel the Group Add.

Group Add Error

There was an error during the Group Add, and ComicTrac had to abort. Ensure you entered all information properly on the Comic Information window before you started the Group Add.

Limit Reached

In this version of ComicTrac you can enter only a limited number of comics. The registered and commercial version allow you to add unlimited numbers of comics.

Empty Database

You have not entered any comics, so ComicTrac cannot do any of the reports. Enter some comics and then try the reporting features again.

No Need or Replace

ComicTrac did not find any comics you needed or needed to replace. Remember, ComicTrac only finds gaps in your collection, it does not detect whether you need the first 300 or the last 50.

Cannot Find Font

ComicTrac uses the Windows standard "MS Sans Serif" font for the report window display. If it cannot find this font, the report aborts. You should then re-install this font from your Windows disks.

Cannot Find Font

ComicTrac uses the Windows Standard "Arial" font for printing off the reports. If ComicTrac cannot find this font, it aborts. You should then re-install the font from your Windows disks.

Invalid Data

You either entered letters in a number only field, or the **Date Published** field is invalid. Change the field and try saving again.

Comic Already Exists

This comic already exists in the database. Each comic must have a unique **Publisher**, **Series** and **Comic#**.

Need Valid Information

You must enter valid information for the **Publisher**, **Series** and **Comic#** before ComicTrac can save the comic.

Need Valid Information

You must enter valid information in each column for a specific row. You need valid **Condition**, **Print#**, **Value**, and **Copies** information before the row is valid.

Need One Row of Information

You must fill in at least one row of the Comic Information Table before ComicTrac can save your comic.

New Publisher and Series

You entered a Publisher in the Publisher field which is not in the database. ComicTrac will create a new Publisher and consequently a new series based on the information.

New Series

You entered a Series in the Series field which is not in the database. ComicTrac will start a new Series and the comic you enter will be under that series. Always check to make sure that you have not made a typing mistake and you really do want to add a new series.

Comic Successfully Saved

You successfully added a comic to ComicTrac.

Comic Successfully Saved

The changes you made to the comic were saved successfully.

Backing up the Database

ComicTrac is about to backup the database. If you continue, ComicTrac creates a backup of your database called "comtrac.bak" in your application directory. At the same time it compresses the database to save disk space. You should backup the database at least after every 100 comics.

Database In Use

The ComicTrac database is open. You cannot backup or repair the database when it is open. Close all windows and try again.

Corrupt Database

The ComicTrac database has become corrupted. ComicTrac automatically tries to repair the database. If the repair fails, copy a hopefully recent version of "comtrac.bak" to "comtrac.mdb". This could result in some data loss.

Unknown Error

Your guess is as good as ours! If you get this error message, please write down the information in the "Description" part of the error message window, as well as the version of ComicTrac you are using, and the steps you went through to create the error. Then send this information to one of the places listed on the About window and in the Technical support section of the help file.

Deleting Comic

You are about to delete a comic from the ComicTrac database. Once you delete the comic, it is gone for good.

Incorrect Registration

The information you entered was not valid registration information. Check to ensure the registration information you entered is exactly the same as the information you received when you registered.

Warranty

Disclaimer of Warranty

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