

Template Files

By default, HDM can only create PDB databases with text fields. A template file allows HDM to create databases with field types other than text.

To make a template file, use HandBase on your Palm Pilot to create a new database. Set it up with the format you want: the right number of fields, in the right order, with the types and the field names you want. You can also specify the field display widths and other options. If you like, you can hand-enter some sample data to make sure your database is set up correctly, but that's not necessary; the database can be empty if you prefer.

Now sync with your Palm Pilot to get a copy of the database onto your Macintosh. If you are using version 2.1 of the Palm Desktop software, when the sync is done you'll find the file in the folder "Palm Desktop : Users : <your name> : Backups : <database name>.PDB". For example, if your name is John Doe and your template database is named Auto Service, look for the file here:

```
Palm Desktop
Users
John Doe
Backups
Auto Service.PDB
```

Drag this file from its folder and drop it into the Make PDB window. If the drop is successful, its name will appear in the Make PDB window.

- If the drop is not successful, then HDM does not believe that the file is a HandBase database. Make sure you have used the correct file (there may be quite a few in the Backups folder).
- Be careful not to move the PDB file out of the Backups folder. If you drop it onto an HDM window, everything will be fine; but if you accidentally drop it into a Finder window the file may be moved there, and this could interfere with your future syncs.

When you create your database, HDM will ignore any data in this template file and will use the data in the CSV file instead; but it

will create the new database with the same fields, types, and formats as those in the template file.

If your template contains time or date fields, go back to the Input Options section and be sure that the Time and Date Format popups match the format of the fields in your CSV file. Otherwise HDM will not be able to interpret these fields correctly.

Summary: A template PDB file lets you create new databases with field types other than text, and with the field names and widths pre-set. Without a template file, all fields will be created as text fields, will have default widths, and will have default names unless you use the First Line Has Field Names option. In a future version of HDM we may supply other ways of specifying field formats.