BBDB Filters & Processors

Neda Document Number: 103-104-02

Last Updated: Author unspecified

Doc. Revision: source unspecified

Neda Communications, Inc.

November 14, 2000

Contents

This document describes the "BBDB Filters & Processors" package, a utility which translates BBDB information to and from various other formats.

Published by:
Neda Communications, Inc.
17005 SE 31st Place,
Bellevue, WA 98008 USA

1 Introduction

Over time much valuable data has been gathered in BBDB database files. Many wish to share parts or all of this information with others. They also wish to have access to this same information from other systems (like personal digital assistants) lacking straightforward BBDB access.

For these reasons, we have prepared a family of filters that convert the information in BBDB to and from a variety of other formats. We have put in place some general frameworks to accomplish a set of common functions. These include:

Output filters: export BBDB information to other formats. Section 3 describes the general framework for output filters and currently supported filters.

Input filters: import information from other formats into BBDB. Section 4 describes the general framework for input filters and currently supported filters.

Action Processors: Apply extendible functions to a set of selected BBDB entries. Section 5 describes the general framework for action processors and currently processors.

Group Processors: Tools to allow selection of subsets of BBDB entries and manipulation of such entries. Section 6 describes the general framework for group processors and currently supported processors.

The combination of above features allows for extremly powerful results.

Our hope is that over time this collection of BBDB filters will grow through contributed code.

1.1 About This Package

This package is a collection of filters and is called "BBDB Filters & Processors". It has been somewhat tested with BBDB version 1.50. The present state of the software is still preliminary although it has proved useful.

1.2 About This Manual

This documentation applies to Version 0.3 of the "BBDB Filters & Processors" package. The documentation is presently skeletal and very preliminary. It mostly provides the user with instructions for use, and very little background is included. Familiarity with Emacs Lisp is assumed for some sections.

1.3 The Big Picture

2 Setup

2.1 Installation

To install the binaries, just edit the makefile and run "make install".

Description of files in the distribution:

COPYING.LIB: The GNU Library General Public License document.

README: read this file before starting the installation.

bbdb-a-msend-example.el: an example of msend-xxx elisp functions to form the subject and include attachements (pdf, gif, ...) in the e-mail.

bbdb-a-tex-example.el: an example for generating a TeX file (could be in the form of letter, memo, article, book, etc.)

bbdb-action-extension.el: define the key map for BBDB action extension.

bbdb-action-lib.el: define an extension to a filename.

bbdb-append.el: elisp functions to append all entries in the *BBDB* buffer matching the regexp STRING in any fields.

bbdb-ccmail.el: an output filters to export all entries in the *BBDB* buffer into CCMail format.

bbdb-eudora.el: an output filters to export all entries in the *BBDB* buffer into Eudora format.

bbdb-export.el: elisp function to export the selected BBDB entries.

bbdb-filters-load.el: loading all necessary file automatically in order to use the "BBDB Filters & Processors" package.

bbdb-group.el: elisp function to generate a group names.

bbdb-hp200lx.el: an output filters to export all entries in the *BBDB* buffer into HP200 LX handheld PC.

bbdb-nsmail.el: an output filters to export all entries in the *BBDB* buffer into Netscape (version 4.x) address book format.

bbdb-netscape6.el: an output filters to export all entries in the *BBDB* buffer into Netscape (version 6) address book format.

bbdb-outlook97.el: an output filters to export all entries in the *BBDB* buffer into Microsoft Outlook 97 format.

bbdb-palmpilot.el: an output filters to export all entries in the *BBDB* buffer into Palm Pilot format.

bbdb-passwd.el: coverts passwd files to the canonical bbdb input filters format.

bbdb-ph.el: generate an output of the *BBDB* buffer in PH tab-delimited-file (.CDF) format.

bbdb-pine.el: an output filters to export all entries in the *BBDB* buffer into PINE format.

bbdb-schdplus.el: an output filters to export all entries in the *BBDB* buffer into Microsoft Schedule+ format.

bbdb-tex-lib: insert BBDB field (i.e. first name, last name addrss, phone number, etc.) in the generated TeX file.

tex-fax-cover.el: produces a fax cover in TeX file which automatically insert the originator's information and recipient's information from the *BBDB* buffer entries.

tex-letter.el: produces a letter style in TeX file which automatically insert the originator's information and recipient's information from the *BBDB* buffer entries.

tex-memo.el: produces a memo style in TeX file which automatically insert the originator's information and recipient's information from the *BBDB* buffer entries.

tex-envelope.el: produces an envelope in TeX file which automatically insert the originator's information and recipient's information from the *BBDB* buffer entries.

originator-prefs.el: consists of originator's preferences which will be used for creating letter, memo, envelope or fax cover.

comRecs.el: creates a new communication record notes for a specific person from *BBDB* buffer or visit an existing one.

insert-fpath: insert a message/text from a file.

makefile: the setup file.

2.2 Configuration

After running the "make install", go to directory where the binaries were installed and edit the "bbdb-filters-load.el" file so that the output of the BBDB filters will be saved in the directory that you specified (i.e. the default derectory for Eudora output is in /dos/m/eudora.mai/).

When you are done, load the "bbdb-filter-load" file (M-x load-file bbdb-filter-load).

2.3 Customizing It

For e-mail merge and TeX merge customization, see bbdb-a-msend-example.el and bbdb-a-tex-example.el.

The originator-prefs.el is used to set the user's preferences. For more details, see Section 5.2.

3 Output Filters

"Output filters" are used to export BBDB information into formats used by other systems.

In general, an output filter uses the contents of your **BBDB** buffer as input. Note that output filters do not use BBDB files (typically ' */.bbdb*') directly.

An output filter is invoked by executing its associated lisp function. The name of the function is conventionally named *bbdb-output-¡system¿* (e.g., *M-x bbdb-output-hp200lx*).

The result of running an output filter is to create a new buffer that contains the **BBDB** information appropriately transformed into a format suitable for use by the target system. The new buffer is given a file name that you specify.

3.1 Microsoft Schedule+ and Windows CE Contacts

3.1.1 Microsoft Schedule+ and Windows CE 1.0

This output filter package has only been tested with the Microsoft Schedule+ version 7.0a software and Windows CE Version 1.0. The software is in file *bbdb-schdplus.el*.

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.

2. Invoke *M-x bbdb-output-schdplus* to create an ASCII .CSV (Comma Separated Values) BBDB export file.

3. Start Microsoft Schedule+ program. Use the File-¿Import-¿Text... menu item to import the exported BBDB entries into Schdeule+. Follow the screens and select "contacts" format. The text import wizard may ask you to specify the mapping between the fields in the BBDB export file and those used by Schedule+. Simply specify fields of the same name. (e.g., "Business City" maps to "Businesss City").

4. To use this exported information with Windows CE, you must down download it to your HPC using the HPC Explorer application. On the host computer start the HPC Explorer application. Use Tools-¿Synchronize now to initiate the transfer.

   If the menu item is grayed out you should use bring up the Tools-¿Synchronization Manager... dialog and check the box for "Enable Appointment, Contact and Task Synchronization". Leave unchecked the box for "Automatically synchronize upon connecting".

3.1.2 Microsoft Schedule+ and Windows CE 2.0

This output filter package has been tested with Microsoft Schedule+ version 7.0a (this program is part of Microsoft Outlook) and Windows CE version 2.0. The software is in file *bbdb-schdplus.el*. Here are the steps to import the bbdb list into the Windows CE device:

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.

2. Invoke *M-x bbdb-output-schdplus* to create an ASCII .CSV (Comma Separated Values) BBDB export file. It will automatically ask you to save *bbdb-schdplus.csv* file. Just accept the default file name but you may want to specify your own location of the file.

3. In your Windows machine, open the Microsoft Outlook program.

4. Click on *File* menu and then click on *Import & Export*.

5. Click om *Import from Schedule+ or another program or file* and then click *Next*.

6. Choose the *Comma Separated Values (DOS)* and then click *Next*.

7. Locate the file to be imported (the *bbdb-schdplus.csv*) and then click *Next*.

8. Select the *Contacts* as the destination folder and then click *Next*.

3.2 Netscape Address Book (Version 4.x) and Windows NT

This output filter package has only been tested with the Netscape Communicator 4.72 and Windows NT OS. The software is in file *bbdb-nsmail.el*.

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.

2. Invoke *M-x bbdb-output-nsmail* to create an HTML file.

3. You will be prompted to save the HTML file to a file. The default is `~/.netscape/address-book.bbdb.html`. To accept the default, just press enter.

4. After you created the HTML file, open the Netscape Communicator on your Windows NT machine and then click on the "Communicator –¿ Address Book".

5. You suppose to be in the Address Book window. In the Address Book window, click on File –¿ New Address Book. You'll be prompted to create a new Address Book name. Type in the address book name that you want to import to Netscape address book.
6. Under the Directory column, you'll see the Address Book that you just created. Click on that new address book name. Right now, it should be empty.
7. Click on File –¿ Import –¿ Communicator Address Book, and then click Next. Under "Files of type", select the HTML Files and then locate the HTML files that you created from the BBDB (i.e. address-book.bbdb.html), adn then click Open. It shuld automatically put the imported HTML files in your address book.

3.3 Netscape Address Book (Version 6) and Windows NT

This output filter package has only been tested with the Netscape Communicator 6 and Windows NT OS. The software is in file *bbdb-netscape6.el*.

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.
2. Invoke *M-x bbdb-output-netscape6* to create CSV file.
3. You will be prompted to save the CSV file to a file. The default is `~/bbdb-netscape6.csv`. To accept the default, just press enter. This name will be the name of your Netscape 6 Address Book.
4. After you created the CSV file, open the Netscap 6 on your Windows NT machine and then click on the "Task –¿ Address Book".
5. You suppose to be in the Address Book window. In the Address Book window, click on File –¿ Import. The type of materila to import: Address Book. Next.
6. Click on Text, then Next
7. Select the CSV file that you just created, then click Next. Then just click OK.

3.4 Palm Pilot

The software is in file *bbdb-palmpilot.el*. Here are the steps to import the bbdb list into the Windows CE device:

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.
2. Invoke *M-x bbdb-output-palmpilot* to create an ASCII .CSV (Comma Separated Values) BBDB export file. It will automatically ask you to save *bbdb-palmpilot.csv* file. Just accept the default file name but you may want to specify your own location of the file.
3. The rest of the steps will be documented later (as of 001106)

3.5 PC Eudora

BBDB information can be exported to PC Eudora in two formats–as a nickname database file and as a recipients database file.

The PC Eudora output filter is in file *bbdb-eudora.el*.

3.5.1 PC Eudora Nickname Database

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.
2. Invoke *bbdb-output-eudora-nndbase* to create a PC Eudora Nickname database file.
3. Make the file accessible to PC Eudora.

3.5.2 PC Eudora Recipient Database

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.
2. Invoke *bbdb-output-eudora-rcpdbase* to create a PC Eudora recipient's database file.
3. Make the file accessible to PC Eudora.

3.6 Lotus cc:Mail Nicknames

The Lotus cc:Mail output filter is in file *bbdb-ccmail.el*.

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.
2. Invoke *bbdb-output-ccmail* to create a cc:Mail Nicknames file.
3. Make the file accessible to cc:Mail.

3.7 PH

The PH output filter is in file *bbdb-ph.el*.

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.
2. Invoke *bbdb-output-ph* to create a *ph* data file for use with the *maked* program.
3. Make the file accessible to *ph*.

3.8 Export and Import BBDB Entries

3.8.1 Emacs Lisp Export Through E-mail

The Emacs Lisp Export output filter is in file *bbdb-export.el*.

This output filter uses the current contents of your **BBDB** buffer to generate a new buffer (**BBDB* Export*) that contains a single lisp *(progn ...)* expression. For example, a **BBDB** buffer containing two records would result in the following **BBDB* Export* buffer:

```
;;; ======= Start of Exported BBDB Records =======
(progn
  (require 'bbdb-com)
  (defun bbdb-maybe-create (name company net &optional addrs phones notes)
    "Try to add a record to BBDB if it does not already exist."
```

```
    (condition-case err
        (progn
          (bbdb-create-internal name company net addrs phones notes)
          (message "%s %s added." name (if net (concat "<" net ">") ""))
          (sleep-for 1))
      (error (ding)
             (message "%s %s skipped. (%s)"
                      name
                      (if net (concat "<" net ">") "")
                      (car (cdr err)))
             (sleep-for 1))))

  (bbdb-maybe-create "Jill Doe--IMPORTED"
                     "CBS Corporation"
                     '("jilld@cbs.com")
                     '(
                       ["Home"
                        "368 222ND PL"
                        ""
                        ""
                        "Springfield"
                        "MA" 2117]
                       )
                     '(
                       ["Office" 617 555 9983 0]
                       ) '"Movie Mogul")
  (bbdb-maybe-create "John Doe--IMPORTED"
                     "ABC Incorporated"
                     '("jdoe@abc.com")
                     '(
                       ["Office"
                        "123 Any Street"
                        ""
                        ""
                        "Any Town"
                        "WA" (98027 7758)]
                       )
                     '(
                       ["Office" 206 555 1234 0]
                       ) '"TV Producer")
  )
;;; ======= End of Exported BBDB Records =======
```

This lisp expression can then be sent via email or some other text-based messaging facility to another user who can then evaluate the expression which will add the *BBDB* records to the recipient's *BBDB* database.

Only new records are added. A record with the same name or net address as one already existing in the *BBDB* is skipped entirely.

In the sample contents of a **BBDB* Export* buffer presented, two records are being exported–one for “John Doe” and the other for “Jill Doe”. Notice that their names have been appended with *–IMPORTED*. This string can be used to quick locate each record that is added to the database using this mechanism.

The following steps are for exporting BBDB records into Emacs Lisp:

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.
2. Invoke *bbdb-export* to create a **BBDB* Export* buffer which contains a single *(progn ...)* can be evaluated to add the records to the existing *BBDB* database (if the records do not already exist).
3. Use the contents of **BBDB* Export* in email and other messaging systems.

The following steps are for a user wishing to import the contents of a **BBDB* Export* buffer's expression into his or her own database:

1. Evaluate the region bounded by the lines
   ;;; ======= Start of Exported BBDB Records =======
   and
   ;;; ======= End of Exported BBDB Records =======.
   You can use such commands as *M-x eval-region* or *M-x eval-last-sexp*.
2. Review the newly imported entries. To see them, invoke *M-x bbdb* and specify *–IMPORTED* at the *Regular Expression* prompt.
3. After reviewing the contents of the imported records, you may wish to remove the *–IMPORTED* that is appended to the name by *bbdb-export*.

3.9 HP 200LX Phone Book

This package has only been tested on HP 200LX palmtop systems. It also requires the “HP 200LX Connectivity Pack” for converting comma-delimited ASCII files into binary .PDB files which are read by the HP 200LX Phone Book application. Version 1.00 of the “HP 200LX Connectivty Pack” was used for testing.

The HP 200LX output filter is in file *bbdb-hp200lx.el*.

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.
2. Invoke *bbdb-output-hp200lx* to create an ASCII .CDF (Comma Delimited File).
3. Using Xlate/Merge option of HP Connectivity Pack convert the .CDF file into a binary .PDB file used by the Phone Book program.
4. Download the .PDB file to your palmtop's internal disk and ensure that the Phone Book program is set use the newly downloaded .PDB file.

3.10 BBDB and TeX Output

You can use BBDB entries to create a TeX file in different style (letter, fax, memo, envelope). The recipient information are inserted directly ito the output from *BBDB* buffer. As for the originator/sender information, you can customize it to be whatever you want (seee Section 5.2).

The default for originator's info is in originator-prefs.el. The default directory for this file is in /bbdbGens. Copy this file to the default directory or you may change the directory to wherever you want. To change the default directory, you need to change the originator-tex-bbdb-dir which is located in the bbdb-filters-load.el.

You may also want to change the output directory, bbdb-a-output-file, to wherever you want (this variable is located at originator-prefs.el). Currently, this originator-prefs.el is used by tex-fax-cover.el, tex-letter.el, tex-memo.el, and tex-envelope.el.

To overwrite the originator's default values, create another originator-prefs (i.e. originator-prefs-template.el) and load this file.

3.10.1 General Usage of TeX Output Filters

The following steps are for exporting BBDB records into Emacs Lisp:

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export.
2. To overwrite the default sender's information, load the originator-prefs-template.el (or any other originator-prefs).
3. Put the cursor anywhere around the person's name that you want to write a memo/letter/fax/envelope to and then press `x` or `*x`.
4. You will be prompted for "Type of action:". To see any available actions, just hit the Tab key and you'll see a list of actions.
5. Invoke *tex-fax-cover*, *tex-letter*, *tex-memo*, *tex-envelope-legal* (for legal size envelope (#10 envelope)), *tex-envelope-7x5* (for 7x5 size envelope). If there are multiple phones, BBDB will prompt you to select.
6. The output buffer will write-file to the specified output directory (the default is specified in originator-prefs.el – bbdb-a-output-file and is set to /bbdbGens/texOutputFiles)
7. Save the output file and run latex.

4 Input Filters

"Input filters" are used to import into BBDB information from a foreign system's data file.

The name of the function is conventionally named *bbdb-input-¡system¿* (e.g., *bbdb-input-passwd* is the name of the Emacs Lisp function for the UNIX password file input filter).

In general, an "input filter" expects the foreign system's data to be in the current buffer. The contents of the current buffer are used to create an Emacs Lisp file which when loaded will add new records into your BBDB database if they don't yet exist–existing BBDB records will not be modified.

4.1 General Facilities for Input Filtering

The result of running an input filter is to produce a new buffer a series of *bif-create-record* expressions, each corresponding to a single user's record. Notice that input filters do not directly modify the contents of the BBDB files (typically ' */.bbdb*').

To actually modify the contents of the BBDB database, you must evaluated the expressions in the resultant buffer created by the input filter. One way to do so is simply to invoke *M-x eval-buffer*. Another way is to simply save the buffer to disk and load its contents into Emacs Lisp using *M-x load-file*.

4.2 UNIX Password Files

The UNIX password file input filter is in file *bbdb-passwd.el*.

1. Use *M-x find-file* to visit the UNIX password file you wish to import.
2. With the password file in the current buffer, invoke the input filter *M-x bbdb-input-passwd*. You will be prompted for the domain name associated with that host's password file; an organization name; as well as the file name to be associated with the buffer of *bif-create-record* expressions.
3. Evaluate the contents of the input filter's buffer to add records into your BBDB database file.

5 Action Processors

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the name you want to generate.
2. Put the cursor anywhere around the person's name that you want to write a memo to and then press `x` or `*x`.
3. You will be prompted for "Type of action:". To see any available actions, just hit the Tab key and you'll see a list of actions.
4. Conventions for generating an email to each recepient is "msend-xxx". Conventions for generating an email to all recepient is "mall-xxx". Convention for generating a TeX file (letter, memo, fax, ...) is "tex-memo-xxx".

   See 7 for detail.

5.1 E-Mail Actions

Automating the process of enclosing generalized information as in-line text to as attachemnts is very useful. Then marrying that ability with BBDB action processors and group processors creates a full set of very powerful information distribution tools.

By convention the names for creation of such families of information distribution tools is as follows:

insertable text: Just a tex file that can be inserted in any email through moded-insert.

minc-xxx: elisp functions to add attachements.

msend-xxx: msend-xxx elisp functions to form the subject and include attachements (pdf, gif, ...). You then need to complete it by add supplying the To line.

bbdb-msend-xxx: bbdb-msend-xxx elisp functions and M-x x msend-xxx bbdb action for use through a BBDB buffer to send to each entry in bbdb buffer. Makes thing individual and personal. You then need to finalize the send.

bbdb-mbatch-xxx: bbdb-msend-xxx elisp functions and M-x x msend-xxx bbdb action for use through a BBDB buffer to send to each entry in bbdb buffer. You then need NOT to finalize the send – they just go out. Be careful when using the mbatch feature.

bbdb-mall-xxx: elisp functions and M-x x mall-xxx bbdb action. You need to finalize. Make things group oriented.

bbdb-mallbatch-xxx: elisp functions and M-x x mall-xxx bbdb action. You need NOT to finalize. Make things group oriented. Be careful when using the mbatch feature.

5.2 Originator's Preferences

The originator-prefs.el file is used to load the sender's default information such as name address, e-mail, etc. Mostly these information are being used to setup the header for letter, memo, and fax cover as well as the return address for the envelope.

You may want to have several originator-prefs file so that you'll be able to have different letter head. This is done by overwrite the values of the default information. Included in this package is originator-prefs-template.el, whic is an example of how you overwrite the default values by loading this file.

5.3 TeX Actions

This feature can create different kind of TeX file. For example, it can create a memo, a letter, an article, etc.

5.3.1 tex-letter

This feature produces a LaTeX file for the letter. The originator's letter head are set in the originator-prefs.el. This function is intended to be used with bbdb. The recipient's information will automatically inserted from the bbdb record.

For more information on how to use this feature, see Section 3.10.1.

5.3.2 tex-memo

This feature is almost the same as tex-letter except it produces different LaTeX style document.

5.3.3 tex-envelope

When writing a letter or memo, you may also want to print the envelope that goes with it.

This code is modified from the original sources written by J. Daniel Smith in 1990 (the make-env.tex, lettermac.tex and zip.tex).

At this moment, there are 2 differnt sizes of envelopes, the legal size (known as #10 envelope) and 7x5 size envelope.

For more information on how to use this feature, see Section 3.10.1 and 7.2.1.

5.3.4 tex-fax-cover

This feature functions almost the same as tex-letter except it produces different LaTeX style document. It produces a LaTeX file for used to send a fax cover with sender and recipient's information automatically inserted.

For more information on how to use this feature, see Section 3.10.1

5.4 comRecs-create

5.4.1 comRecs-this-create

This function creates a new communication record note. When you are invoking this feature, a new directory is created and it will match with the person's name (which is indicated in the comrec field) from the *BBDB* buffer and the notes will be saved with a specific date.

The following steps are for creating the comRec for Mary Doe:

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export (i.e. Mary Doe).
2. Put the cursor anywhere around the person's name and then press x.
3. You will be prompted for "Type of action:" and then type in "comRecs-this-create".
4. The output buffer will write-file to the specified output directory (i.e. /bbdbGens/comRecs/Doe/010405112311.notes)
5. Save the output file.

5.4.2 comRecs-group-create

This function creates a new communication record note. When you are invoking this feature, a new directory is created and it will match with the group projects's name (which is indicated in the comrec field) from the *BBDB* buffer and the notes will be saved with a specific date.

Assume that the comrec field exists (i.e. comrec: 2001-project). The following steps are for creating the 2001-project comRec for Mary Doe:

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export (i.e. Mary Doe).
2. Put the cursor anywhere around the person's name and then press x.
3. You will be prompted for "Type of action:" and then type in "comRecs-group-create".
4. The output buffer will write-file to the specified output directory (i.e. /bbdbGens/comRecs/2001-project/010405112311.notes)
5. Save the output file.

5.5 comRecs-visit

This function will visit an existing comRecs note which is previously created using the comRecs-create function.

When somebody invoking the comRecs-visit, the function will check whether the comrec field exist inside the *BBDB* record. If the comrec field exist, the function will execute the comRecs-group-visit (see Section 5.5.2). If the comrec field doesn't exist, the comRecs-this-visit (see Section 5.5.1) will be executed instead.

NOTE: as of 04/23/2001 this feature has not been implemented but comRecs-group- and comRecs-this will do the job.

5.5.1 comRecs-this-visit

This function visits the existing communication record note. When you are invoking this feature, it will open the directory that match with the person's lastname from the *BBDB* buffer and will display all of the existing notes.

The following steps are for visiting an individual comRec of Mary Doe:

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export (i.e. Mary Doe).

2. Put the cursor anywhere around the person's name and then press `x`.

3. You will be prompted for "Type of action:" and then type in "comRecs-this-visit".

4. A message "Visit File To: /bbdbGens/comRecs/Doe/" will appear and you can select the specific note that you want to visit.

5.5.2 comRecs-group-visit

This function visits the existing communication record note. When you are invoking this feature, it will open the directory that match with the group projects's name (which is indicated in the comrec field) from the *BBDB* buffer and will display all of the existing notes.

The following steps are for visiting the group comRec (i.e. comrec: 2001-project) of Mary Doe:

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to export (i.e. Mary Doe).

2. Put the cursor anywhere around the person's name and then press `x`.

3. You will be prompted for "Type of action:" and then type in "comRecs-group-visit".

4. A message "Visit File To: /bbdbGens/comRecs/2001-project/" will appear and you can select the specific note that you want to visit.

6 Group Processors

6.1 Group Names Generation

The script generate a list of people's name in the BBDB buffer. This feature is useful to generate a list of names and group them accordingly. For example, you can create a group of people in your family, your circle-of-friend group, your business-people group, etc.

1. Invoke *M-x bbdb* to populate the **BBDB** buffer with the contents you wish to generate.

2. Put the cursor at the person's name and type `x` (this will only generate that person name only). To generate the whole content of your *BBDB* buffer, type `* x` (this will generate a list of people's name of your *BBDB* buffer.

3. You'll be prompted for an "Action To Apply". Type in `group-names-gen` and press enter.

4. You'll be prompted for a file name to save. The default name is `group.names`. To accept this default, press enter, otherwise type in your own filename and press enter.

6.2 Using bbdb-group feature for the Names Generation File

Once you generate the list of names, you can append one or all of the names in the list for their complete information. There are 4 bbdb-group command available:

- bbdb-group-append
- bbdb-group-blank
- bbdb-group-input
- bbdb-group-process-line

1. First of all, you need to open the `group.names` file that you just create in previous section.
2. To append just a name, put the cursor at the beginning of that person's name and type in `M-x bbdb-group-process`. As a result, a *BBDB* buffer will be created and the person's information that ypu requested will appear. If you run `M-x bbdb-group-process-line` for the next person in the list, the *BBDB* buffer will add that person to the buffer.
3. To automatically append the whole name in the list, use `M-x bbdb-group-append` command.
4. The `M-x bbdb-group-blank` just create a blank *BBDB* buffer.
5. The `M-x bbdb-group-input` act the same way as `M-x bbdb-group-append`.

7 Examples

The following examples which are intended to be used as a starting point for customization provide a set of conventions that have proven useful.

7.1 TeX Actions

Processing customizable letters and envelops with mail merge features is quite easy as an extension of the action processor filters.

7.1.1 TeX Letter

By convention the action name for tex actions is:

```
tex-style-content-from
```

style: says which style (letter, fax, ...)
content: says what the content is.
from: says what the letter head should look like.
Here is the example:

- Invoke `M-x bbdb` to populate the *BBDB* buffer with the contents you wish to generate.

- Place the cursor at the person's name which you want to send the letter to and hit 'x'. Action To Apply: tex-letter-filtersAnnounce-neda.
- Write to file: /tmp/filename.tex
- Build the tex file with the latexmake command (e.g. latexmake filename.ps).

7.2 Mailing Labels/Envelope

7.2.1 TeX Envelope

After the TeX file is created (by invoking the tex-envelope), build it by running the command `texmake xxx-envelope.pdf`. Open the pdf format of xxx-envelope.pdf.

The printing of this pdf file has only been tested using the Lexmark 4039 Laser printer only. When trying to print, mark it as "Print as image". Here are the options that were used when testing the print out:

```
Print as image
Printer Properties:
     Paper Source: Envelope Feeder
     Paper Size: Envelope #10
```

7.2.2 MS Word Mail Merge

You can create a batch of mailing labels or envelopes using the .cvs file tha you created from inviking `M-x bbdb-output-scdplus` with Microsoft Word.

1. Open the MS Word and open the new file (blank doc). Click on Tools–¿Mail Merge.
2. Under the Main Document, click Create and then choose the avilable type (Mailing Labels or Envelopes).
3. Under Get Data, click on Open Data Source and then choose the .cvs file.
4. Under Create Labels, choose Insert Merge Field that you want to appear on the envelope.
5. Click on Merge.

8 Miscellany

8.1 TODO List

- Move generic input filter functionality out of *bbdb-passwd.el* and into, say, *bbdb-ifilt.el*. The generic functionality code has names typically prefixed with *bif-*.
- Add support for *gdbload* (as an alternative to the Xlate/Merge application provided in the HP 200LX Connectivity Pack) into the HP 200LX output filter. This is based on input from Robert Nicholson *¡robert@steffi.dircon.co.uk¿*.
- Add documentation for variables in the various input and output filters.

- Check and document all dependencies on other packages.
- For the originator-prefs.el, the originator's information can be extracted from the system For example usind `id` will give you who is the user name and id. Using `grep username /etc/passwd` will tell the username's full name and using `M-x describe-variable user-mail-address`

8.2 Credits

Pean Lim *¡pean@neda.com¿* wrote most of this package. Mohsen Banan *¡http://mohsen.banan.1.byname.net/ContactMe¿* put it all together and guided the work. Pinneke Tjandana *¡pinneke@neda.com¿* expanded and edited some of the lisp code and this manual. Neda Communications, Inc. sponsored the work. The output filters code is based on *bbdb-print* by Boris Goldowsky
¡boris@prodigal.psych.rochester.edu¿.

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