Family History System UPDATE

THANKS for Your Order

I want to thank you for ordering this update to the Family **History System**. Your continued support for this software helps encourage further enhancements to it.

The FHS Update Diskettes

You will find enclosed diskettes containing the September 1997 update to the **Family History System** programs and documentation. They will be labeled B1, (B2, B3, B4), and X1. The B1 (and B2, B3, B4) diskette(s) contain the manual and programs that make up the public version of the software. Diskette X1 contains the files that support the system "extensions", provided only to registered users.

As always, you may provide copies of the public version of the programs to anyone that may be interested, though you may not charge anything for those copies beyond what may be required to recover the cost of media, postage and handling. The system extensions may not be shared with others, but of course you may make unlimited copies for your own use.

The "FHS" Procedure

As in previous updates to these programs, the B1 and X1 diskettes contain command procedures to assist you with the installation of the software. The procedure is now called "FHS" instead of "GO", as it was called before, because the GO command has contradictory meanings in some environments. To use the FHS command procedure, place the B1 or X1 diskette in a diskette drive, make it the default drive, and enter: FHS

You will be presented with a series of displays ending with a MENU of options for the FHS procedure.

INSTALLing the Software

Because of the increased size of the programs and required support files, the INSTALL procedure only provides for creating working copies of the programs in a \FAMILY directory of a hard drive or onto **two HD diskettes** (5 1/4", 1.2M or 3 ½" 1.4M). The basic set of programs (on the B1, B2,.. diskettes) must be installed first and then the programs on the X1 diskette must be installed "on top of" them. Text files on the B1 and X1 diskette describe these installation procedures. To view one of these sets of instructions, place the B1 or X1 diskette in a diskette drive, make that the default drive, and enter:

    FHS INSTALL

To print a copy of these instructions, enter:

    FHS PRINT INSTALL

The "*short version*" of the installation instruc-tions, for installing the software from diskettes in drive "A" into a \FAMILY sub-directory of hard drive "C" would be:

- Place the B1 diskette in drive "A" and enter: A:INSTALL xxxxx A C

    where xxxxx is one of the following:

    ⇒ PGMS to install the programs
    ⇒ MANUAL to install the documentation files into directory: \FAMILY\MANUAL
    ⇒ HTML to install documentation files from the FHS WWW site
    ⇒ SAMPLE to install the ROYAL and GENESIS sample files
    ⇒ ALL to install all of the above

- After installing the programs above, place the X1 diskette in drive "A" and enter: A:INSTALL PGMS A C

If you are using Windows 3.1 the above commands can be entered using the Program Manager "File, Run" option. If you are using Windows 95 or NT, you can enter the commands using "Start, Run". There are additional suggestions for Windows users in the installation instructions on the B1 diskette.

The MANUAL

One of the diskettes (B1, B2 or B3) has a file containing the text of the 159 page manual describing the software. To find out more about this manual, place the B1 diskette in a diskette drive and enter:

    FHS MANUAL

The one manual now contains descriptions of all software options, including those that are part of the extended system. While the beginning point for the manual was the two manuals from the last update, it has been reformatted using MS Word. It now employs several levels of prominent headings to help guide you through the text and there are representations of screen displays to supplement the text.

The manual is distributed as 13 MS Word document files all contained in a single compressed .ZIP file. To view or print the manual the files must be installed onto a hard drive or onto a diskette with at least 1.2M of free space.

To view or print the sections of the manual from the installed files, you must have MS Word 6.0, a later version of MS Word, or a compatible word processor or document viewer. For those who do not have any of these, Microsoft provides a *free* Windows Utility called Word Viewer for Windows. If you received the programs on HD 3 ½" diskettes, then the X1 diskette has a file containing a Windows 3.1 (or later) version of the Word Viewer software. You can install this copy of Word Viewer under Windows 3.1 by placing the diskette in drive "A", then click on "File" on the program manager tool bar, click "Run", type:

    A:INSTALL WORDVIEW A y

where "y" is the destination drive, and press Enter. Under Windows 95, click "Start" then click "Run", type the above command and press Enter.

To find out more about Word Viewer, including information about versions specific to Windows 95 and compatible with Word 97, visit Microsoft's support site for Word Viewer at:

www.microsoft.com/msword/internet/viewer

PROBLEMS?

Soon after you receive these diskettes, you should review the documentation and create working copies of the programs, or at least make backup copies of these diskettes, to determine that they have arrived in satisfactory condition.

If you get "Abort, Retry, Ignore" messages when working with these diskettes, and several "R"etries are unsuccessful, then you should send me a note describing the problem and identifying the diskette (B1, B2, etc.) so that I can send you a replacement diskette. It isn't necessary to return the bad diskette to me.

If you have any other problems, please send me a complete description of them, including screen copies of any error messages, so that I can try to help resolve them. Try to be as specific as possible in your statement of the problem. Simply saying that something "doesn't work" seldom gives me enough information to work with.

Please be aware that there is just one of me here to answer your questions, so it may sometimes take a week or two to respond (the more involved the answer, the longer it will generally take).

You can contact me by postal mail at:
    Phillip E. Brown
    1975 Hickory Tree Lane
    Tallahassee, FL 32303
    U.S. A.
or by email sent to:
    pbrown@bitbrothers.com

CUSTOMIZATION OPTIONS

This update attempts to allow customizing the software for other languages by removing to separate, modifiable files all text information that is used to generate screen displays, messages and report labels. There are actually four of these "language" files which are required to follow a naming convention. The default set of configuration files supplied with the software is:

    FHSTABLE.TDF (System Tables)
    FHSSFMTS.SDF (Screen Formats)
    FHSMSGS.MDF (Messages)
    FHSRPTS.RDF (Report definitions)

Multiple sets of these files can be created, but all file names must differ from the above names only in the first three characters. For instance, you may create files: GMNTABLE.TDF, GMNSFMTS.SDF and GMNMSGS.MDF which could provide a German language user interface, a FRNRPTS.RDF file which would provide report labels in French, or an SWERPTS.RDF file for Swedish labels.

It is easy to switch between different ones of these language files after they have been created, however all language files must reside in the same directory as the FHS programs.

Main Menu option F3-B is used to customize these language files through program sub-options:

    F4-1 for System Tables,
    F4-2 for Screen Formats,
    F4-3 for program Messages, and
    F5 for Report definitions.

The following sections indicate how each of these customization options work.

TABLES - Use Up/Down arrow keys to choose a table and then press Enter to display the contents of the table. Use Up/Down keys to choose a Table entry and then press the Enter key to make changes to that entry. Press the Enter key again to end the update, and press the ESCape key to return to the list of tables. Use F6 to print a report of table information and F1 to save the changes in an appropriately named language file.

SCREEN FORMATS - The screen formats are grouped by FHS program type, identified by a four character code and descriptive label. There is also an "XXXX" group of formats that are used by multiple programs. Select a format group by using the Up/Down/Enter keys. A list of formats in the group will be shown. Use Up/Down/Enter to select a format. The field descriptions will be shown including the location on the screen, the length, and default text. Pressing the F7 key will show how the format appears on the screen. Use the Up/Down/Enter keys to select a field whose text you wish to modify, make changes, and then press the Enter key to complete the change. (Pressing ALT+Enter will allow you to modify the location of the field on the screen as well...Pressing the CTRL+F1 keys places you in "Master Edit" mode, which gives you full update privileges. This option should be used with caution.) Program option F6 allows you to print a report of screen format definitions, and option F1 allows you to Save all changes to an appropriately named file.

MESSAGES - Messages are also grouped by FHS program type. Use Up/Down/Enter to select a message group, then use Up/Down/Enter again to select a message whose text is to be changed. Press Enter when the change is complete, and press the ESCape key to return to the list of message groups. Option F6 produces a report of message information. Option F1 allows you to save all changes in a file. (Note: portions of some messages are contained in square brackets; e.g. "[NVAR1]". This represents a dynamic "System Variable" which will be replaced by a program supplied value when the message is displayed. These parts of the messages should not be changed.)

REPORTS - There are several components to a Report Definition File. These include:

- TABLES - Gender codes, Relationship Codes, Month Names, Report Ref codes.

- VARIABLES - Used to represent Text strings that have special purposes within the programs or that may be used in report definitions. For example: COPYRITE represents a standard report footing line that indicates the source of information in the report, and STDHDLN is used as the standard heading line for all default report descriptions.

- FIELD Definitions - showing the abbreviations, labels or column headings that will be used for the data item.

REPORT DEFINITIONS - Each report description consists of several components as well. These include:

- Report Parameters - such as a descriptive title, page width, message codes, etc.

- Report Options - Default values for options that can be modified within the program that prints the report. (The master list of report options is one of the System Tables.)

- Variables - text "fragments" that are used in the report

- Field Labels - overriding or adding to the Global field label table

- Headings/Titles/Footings - These are the lines that appear at the top of a page, before a report section, or at the bottom of a page. The "text" portion of these lines has the following format:

    Left<<middle>>right

where the text to the left of the "<<" characters will be left justified on the print line, the text to the right of the ">>" characters will be right justified, and the text between them will be centered on the print line. Text within square brackets that appear in the default definitions may represent system variables or controls that will be expanded at run time. for example:

    <<[.RV STDHDLN]>>

will produce a line that has the contents of the Report Variable: STDHDLN centered on the line.

Within the program that customizes report definitions, option F6 can be used to print a report of "report definitions". Again, option F1 is used to Save any changes in an appropriately named file.

The prefixes that are used for the language files at the start of the program are saved in the configuration file: FHSCONFG.CFG. However you can override these values using the DOS SET command before starting an FHS session.

FHS on the Internet

Information about FHS can be found on the Internet at:

    HTTP://www.familyhistorysystem.com

From this site you can keep up-to-date about the status of changes to the software. Changes to programs that are part of the public version of the software will be available for download there. You will also find a list of changes to the programs that are part of the extended system. You can contact me by email to receive copies of the programs supporting extended options.

    email: pbrown@bitbrothers.com