Barcode Basics

Documentation

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Barcode Basics is really easy to use. If you're familiar with FileMaker Pro, the simple instructions on the layout should be all you need. For those not as familiar, here are some more detailed instructions.

FileMaker 7 and Later

1. From your file, create an External Data Source for the Barcode Basics file. This lets your file know that it exists and provides a way to access it. From your file, go to File > Manage > External Data Sources and navigate to the Barcode Basics file.

2. To create a barcode for one of your records, you need a field that contains the string you want to encode, and a text field to hold the resulting barcode.

3. To create the barcode in your record, you'll need a button or something to run a script. The script is very simple. All it does is run the "Generate Code" script in the Barcode Basics file using your source field as the parameter, and then sets your barcode field with the result of that script:

```
Perform Script ["Generate Code" from File: "Barcode Basics"; Parameter: MyFile::MySourceField]
Set Field [MyFile::MyBarcodeField; Get ( ScriptResult )]
```

4. **Your barcode field must now be properly formatted on your layout. This is very important. See the "Formatting the Barcode" section below.**

5. That's all there is to it.

FileMaker 6 and Earlier

The first thing you need is a relationship from your file to the Barcode Basics file *(if you need help understanding relationships, please see the FileMaker Pro documentation)*. This type of relationship is commonly called a "Constant" relationship. It's not used for anything other than to establish a link between the two files, through which you can set field contents back and forth.

1. Create a calculation field in your file, called Constant, with a number result. The calculation should just be 1. This field will always have the number 1 in it. Create a relationship from that field to the field called "Constant" in Barcode Basics. Now your files are linked.

2. Create a text field in your file to hold the barcode. You probably already have a field that holds some data that you!re going to encode.

3. Create a script in your file to generate the barcode. You will need to run this script on each record that contains data for which you would like a barcode *(for more information about*

scripts, please see the FileMaker Pro documentation). The script will only need to contain these three lines:

```
Set Field ["Constant::gInput", "MySourceField"]
Perform Script [Sub-scripts, External: "Barcode Basics.fp5"]
(The script in Barcode Basics is called "Generate Code")
Set Field ["MyBarcodeField", "Constant::gOutput"]
```

The first step gives your source data to Barcode Basics by placing it in the field called gInput. The second step tells Barcode Basics to run its script called "Generate Code" to make the barcode. The third step takes the barcode, which is in a field called gOutput, and places it into your file.

That's all there is to it.

Formatting the Barcode

Your barcode field needs to be formatted properly to correctly display the barcode. The easiest way to do this is to use the Format Painter to copy the field formatting from the barcode field in Barcode Basics, and duplicate that same formatting on your barcode field. (For more information about using the Format Painter, please see the FileMaker Pro documentation.) However the Format Painter fails to properly set the Line Spacing, which you will need to do manually:

- **The line spacing must be set to 1 pixel. Select the bar code field, and go to Format > Text > Paragraph > Line Spacing: Height = 1 pixels.**

- The field needs to be rotated 270 degrees. That means you rotate it three times, and this will make the barcode read from left to right.

- Every printer and printer driver is different, and you may need to experiment to find a combination of font, font size, and font styles to get consistent results with your particular printer.

- If you want the barcode to be taller, you can duplicate the field on the layout and stack them one above the other (you may notice this is how it's done in the demo file).

- It's best to leave the field non-enterable, as it will look wacky if someone clicks into it.

Depending on your printer and print driver, there is a limit on how small you can make these, using this technique. That limit is different for everyone. Experiment with small font sizes, and with minimum line height in the text formatting.

That should be all you need to know. Happy Barcoding!