Tech Info Library

HyperCard 2.2: General Description (9/94)

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TOPIC ---

This article provides an overview of Apple's HyperCard 2.2 software.

A separate Tech Info Library article provides the technical specifications
for HyperCard 2.2; and several other articles describe, in detail, features
that are new or enhanced in version 2.2 of HyperCard.

DISCUSSION --

Overview

HyperCard is a tool for creating custom software solutions for business,
education, and media integration. Commercial developers, consultants,
in-house programmers, and end-users can use it to acquire, manage, and
display information just the way they need to.

HyperCard organizes information in easy-to-use "stacks" of "cards" through
which uses can navigate and search for the information they need. Simply
by clicking a button, they can view related text, see a graphic, hear a
sound, or watch a QuickTime movie.

Easy to Learn

Familiar Macintosh interface elements make HyperCard so easy to learn that
beginners can start creating stacks right away. HyperCard also offers
extensive online help, as well as ready-to-use stacks, templates, and
software objects (buttons, etc.).

Development Environment

HyperCard is an ideal development tool for a wide range of applications,
including multimedia presentations, front-ends to data on host computers,

courseware, and computer-based training materials. And its compatibility with Apple's WorldScript system extension helps you easily create multilingual solutions.

Using HyperTalk (HyperCard's built-in scripting language), AppleScript, or any other scripting language that's compatible with Apple's OSA (Open Scripting Architecture), you can write scripts and attach them to HyperCard buttons that launch, control, and exchange data with other off-the-shelf applications, either locally or over a network. This lets you create HyperCard applications that automate repetitive tasks, such as collecting data from multiple sources and generating reports from it.

HyperCard provides a robust prototyping and development environment for professional developers. It comes with powerful scripting tools, a modeless script editor, hypertext support, debugging tools, external commands, and many other features to help you create powerful custom software.

A new option in HyperCard version 2.2 lets you save any stack as a standalone double-clickable Macintosh application that can be distributed without royalty fees.

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