



ImagePlugin for HanDBase Getting Started Guide

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This software is based in part on the work of the Independent JPEG Group and from Matthew Fleming's library.

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Introduction

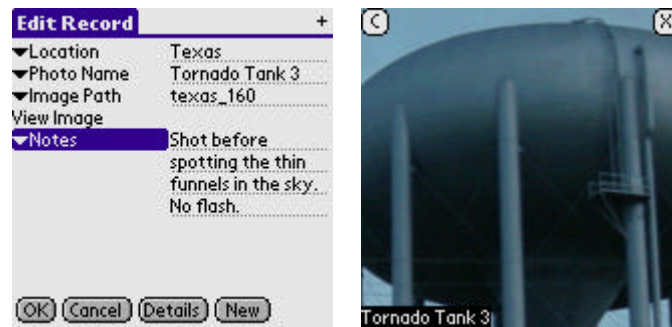
Databases provide us with easy to access storage and retrieval of data that we may use to allow others or ourselves to make decisions. They may also be used for reference as well as historical / archival purposes.

The most common format for databases is to be text based only. This works very well, but things do get very interesting when you add an image or two. As we all know, a picture is worth a thousand words.

The ImagePlugin extends the capabilities of HanDBase 3 to support the use of images within databases. The images are stored outside of the database, and they may even be stored on the external storage card (freeing up valuable memory).

Imagine a real estate database with all the information on a catalog, now imagine the same database with images of the estates. Sounds interesting? Try out the included sample database and images to see this in action for yourself. The list of uses for ImagePlugin may become infinite: Products, medications, patients, events, team logos, flags, catalogs, student photos, data harvest, insurance adjusting, data collection, etc.

This document will instruct you on how to setup a database that will be able to use this plugin. It will also explain how to use the database once it has been setup. It is assumed that you have knowledge of how to use and create databases with HanDBase.



BigTrip Database. Clicking on *View Image* displays the screen on the right. Click on the X button and you are back to the *Edit Record* screen in HanDBase 3.



Screenshot of ImagePlugin being called from a Palm m505 (left) at 160x160 pixels and a Sony CLIE (right) 320x320 pixels / HiRes.



Features

- Fast image loading
- Resolutions: 160x160, 320x320
- Bit depths: 16bit
- Supports PictureGear Pocket Format, JPEG and SplashPhoto 3 & 4
- Images may be stored in External card (SD, MemoryStick, CF, ...)
- HighDensity support on PalmOS 5 based devices
- HiRes support on Sony CLIE devices

Requirements

- *HandBase 3.0i2* or latest
- *PalmOS 4.x* or *PalmOS 5.x*
- *PictureGear* recommended (for image conversion to Pocket format), this is bundled with Sony devices, but may be acquired separately.
- Recommended for taking pictures for storing and using in databases “on the spot” is the *Sony NR/NX* handheld or *MemoryStick Camera*.

Learning HanDBase

If you don't have any prior experience with HanDBase or creating databases, we suggest that you go over the HanDBase Tutorials and Manuals available at the DDH Software, Inc. (<http://www.ddhsoftware.com/support/>) website.

Installing ImagePlugin into your device

Since you are reading this file, we may safely assume that you unpacked / extracted the files from the distribution package. There is only one file to install to your handheld:

- *ImagePlugin.prc*

There may be other files available for install, such as example databases. These are optional and are not required in order for the ImagePlugin to operate.

Note: Do not install on an external card, the software will not function if you do. It must be installed in the handheld's memory.

How does the ImagePlugin work?

The ImagePlugin is a separate program from HanDBase, it is called from the latter by using the *External Field Type* and configuring one text field (with a minimum of 128 characters). The value on that field is the path and name to the image. If the user taps on the Plugin's field in *Record Edit* mode in HanDBase it then displays the image.

Setting up your database to support the ImagePlugin

By following these simple steps you will be able to add support for images to any current or new database. We use a "Photo Album" as an example, to put the ImagePlugin into an actual context. But the same steps may be applied for any database. Please make sure that you are able to install the plugin first, before attempting to use the plugin.

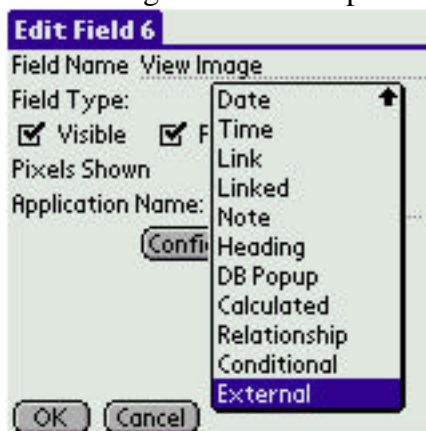
1. Setup your database to include all of the (standard) fields you require. In this example we want to store the name for this picture, the date it was taken, the category it belongs to (Birthdays, Vacations, New House, etc.) and who took the picture.



2. You may optionally have a title displayed with each image, in our example, we will use the first field (Picture Name) as our title. If you don't have a field for this yet, you may add an extra *Text Field* to hold it. You are not required to establish a field for a title. If you don't you will just see the picture by itself.
3. Add a new field that will hold the name and path (if on an External Card) to the image. It must be of type *Text* and at least 64 characters long. You will soon find out that it is annoying to view the name of the file together with your data. If you agree with me on this, just hide it (make it *un-Visible*) by un-checking the Visible check-box.



4. **Hint:** If you later want to create your albums to be read-only (or in this case *view only*), you may password protect the *Image File* field so that the selected image is not changed.
5. Now we are ready to configure the plugin. Create a new field and make of type *External*. It's a good idea to name it something that makes sense when you are going to tap on it to show the image. In this example that will be *View Image*.



6. It's safe to leave the default settings for all. We will just change the *Application Name* to be *ImagePlugin* (one word, case sensitive).



7. Tap on the *Configure* button and you will be taken to the plugin's setup options.



8. There are two options to be set: *Title Field* and *Image Field*. The first allows you to select which field contains the text that will be shown together with the image, it is optional, so you may select "None" if you do not want to use it. The second field is required. It must be set to the field that will contain the image's name and path.
9. **Hint:** You may have more than one *ImagePlugin* configured in a single database, that will allow you to have multiple images per record. You will be required to repeat all of the steps just mentioned for each image.
10. All is now set to use!

Using ImagePlugin from a database

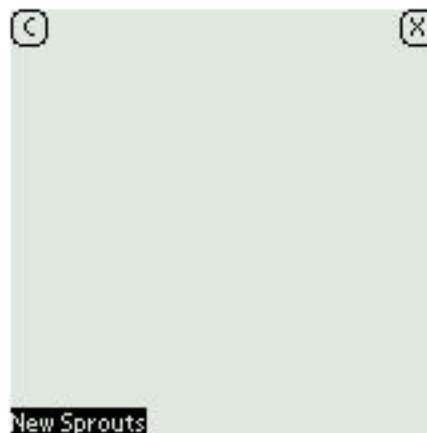
We explain how to use the plugin using the previous example. You will have to install a few images in PGP format in order to follow along.

1. Open up the database that contains the setup you just created for the *ImagePlugin*. In our case we will contain using the example from the previous section: Photo Album. Create a new record and fill in with your desired data.

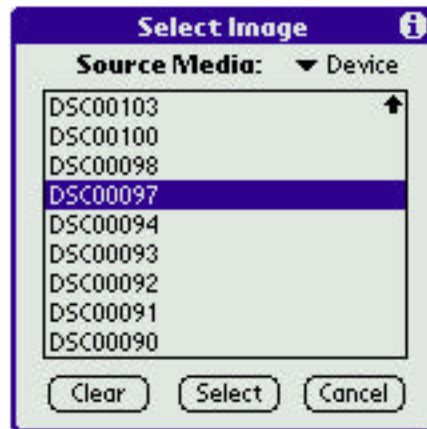


| Edit Record | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| ▼Picture Name | New Sprouts |
| ▼Date Taken | 10/18/02 |
| ▼Category | Garden |
| ▼Photographer | Diego |
| View Image | |
| OK Cancel Details New | |

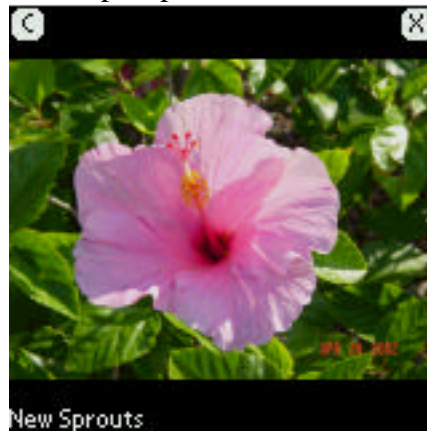
2. Time to add the image. Tap on the *View Image* field. You will initially see a blank screen with two buttons and possibly the title you have selected for the image. The **X** button will close this view and will return you to the *Edit Record* screen in *HanDBase*. The **C/Tool** button will allow you to choose the image you want to view for this record.



3. Tap on the **C/Tool** button. From here you can select the image to view. If the image is on the device, choose *Device* from the *Source Media* popup. If the image is on an external card (such as SD, CF, MemoryStick, etc.), choose *Card*. The list of image files will be updated every time you update the *Source Media* popup. If you no longer wish to display an image, choose the *Clear* button. To keep the current setting, choose the *Cancel* button. To choose an image, tap on it from the list and tap on the *Select* button.



4. Now the image should load. To go back to the *Edit Record* screen in *HanDBase* tap on the **X** button. You may view the image again at any time by tapping the *View Image* field. The image selection is now stored in the database. Please note that the actual image file is kept separate from the database.



5. Enjoy!

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