

HomePhone V.15.07

Today, when nearly everyone has their mobile phone, there are people, mostly older people, who are using a land line exclusively. Even if they have a cell phone, they are not able to store their contacts. Their children or grandchildren, when they come to visit, may find notes with hand-written phone numbers by the telephone.

Children or grandchildren know how to use the computers, and should not be an issue to input all necessary contacts into a PC and print on a single A4 paper. Such a list may become handy when the battery in the cell phone dies or the land line has a electrical blackout.

I myself have such a list for many years and it currently contains 54 contacts. I use two columns on my list. This format is practical, but each update is tedious. Let's look at an example :

Aznavour Charles
Brahms Fridrich
Crocodile Dandy
Dickens Charles

Such an arrangement is enough for about 40 contacts. People are usually reading from left to right and from top to bottom. However, it is fastest to read the list in an alphabetical order from top to bottom. In the following list, editing is possible, but impractical :

Aznavour Charles Brahms Fridrich
Crocodile Dandy Dickens Charles

Reading of this list, as in the book, is from left to right and top to bottom. A better solution is to have two columns. For example, the left one would contain contacts from A to K and right one from L to Z. People could read columns from top to bottom. Our brief example would look like this :

Aznavour Charles Crocodile Dandy
Brahms Fridrich Dickens Charles

Of course it could be done manually for 54 contacts, as two columns of 27 contacts. It might appear appealing to the user (a senior), but a problem could occur when you need to add or delete a contact. Try to imagine how you would add the name of **Bach Sebastian** into the left column, or **Dante Alighieri** into the right column, if each column may only have 27 contacts. Since I'm too tired to do this manually, for this purpose, I made this program.

1. Instalation

The program is portable, not installed. May as well be on a USB drive. The user may create a directory on disk and not necessarily just on the C drive. The directory name is optional, for a easy recognition you may choose HomePhone.

There is a need to save files from the package HomePhone.zip. Two important files :

- HomePhone.exe
- HomePhone.txt

HomePhone.exe is the program. It was tested in Windows 10, Windows 8, Windows 7, and Windows XP. If you run it in other operating systems, please write to the author.

2. Input data

The input data should be entered by the **Notepad**. The file name must be **HomePhone.txt**. Such a file is attached to the program, you can modify it.

The order of contacts is not important, the program sorts them itself. It is important to enter a contact in a single line form. Remember to use the "=" sign between name and telephone number as follows :

Kaufman John = +421 903 123 456

It also works without the spaces

Kaufman John=+421 903 123 456

It depends on you what format of the numbers you will choose, but it should be uniformed. You do not need to write dozens of contacts at first. When you are trying the program, start with about 10 contacts.

3. Quick start and quick success

Save the file **HomePhone.txt** to the directory where your program resides. Then you can just double-click the program HomePhone.exe. This reads your file HomePhone.txt and the program will determine the number of contacts per column. The sorted contacts write then to the output file **HomePhone.html**. When you double clicks this file your internet browser will open this file and from there you can print.

4. Accent marks

The accent marks are used in my country. You can skip over this part for English language.

The program reads contacts with accent marks from file HomePhone.txt, sorts them, and then writes them to the html file.

Here are two practical examples.

Unsorted contacts file HomePhone.txt :

Churchil Winston=+421 999 111 111
Castro Fidel=+421 999 222 222
Aznavour Charles=+421 999 333 333
Einstein Albert=+421 999 444 444
Goodman Benny=+421 999 555 555
Gorkij Maxim=+421 999 666 666
Stofko Branislav= +421 903 123 456
Truman Harry=+421 903 777 777
Bécaud Gilbert=+421 999 888 888

The resulting list :

Aznavour Charles	+421 999 333 333	Goodman Benny	+421 999 555 555
Bécaud Gilbert	+421 999 888 888	Gorkij Maxim	+421 999 666 666
Castro Fidel	+421 999 222 222	Stofko Branislav	+421 903 123 456
Churchil Winston	+421 999 111 111	Truman Harry	+421 903 777 777
Einstein Albert	+421 999 444 444		

You can see a clear advantage of the program. To arrange the list manually in this form would be difficult. The program does it in seconds. Now I add some names with accent marks to the bottom of the list to demonstrate the advantages of the program.

Churchil Winston=+421 999 111 111
Castro Fidel=+421 999 222 222
Aznavour Charles=+421 999 333 333
Einstein Albert=+421 999 444 444
Goodman Benny=+421 999 555 555
Gorkij Maxim=+421 999 666 666
Stofko Branislav= +421 903 123 456
Truman Harry=+421 903 777 777
Bécaud Gilbert=+421 999 888 888
Černý František=+420 888 111 111
Černý Eduard=+420 888 222 222
Černák Igor=+420 888 333 333
Čibulka Alfons=+420 888 444 444
Čorba Ábel=+420 888 555 555
Čorba Anton=+420 888 666 666

The program added the additional names as follows :

Aznavour Charles	+421 999 333 333	Čorba Ábel	+420 888 555 555
Bécaud Gilbert	+421 999 888 888	Čorba Anton	+420 888 666 666
Castro Fidel	+421 999 222 222	Einstein Albert	+421 999 444 444
Černák Igor	+420 888 333 333	Goodman Benny	+421 999 555 555
Černý Eduard	+420 888 222 222	Gorkij Maxim	+421 999 666 666
Černý František	+420 888 111 111	Štofko Branislav	+421 903 123 456
Churchil Winston	+421 999 111 111	Truman Harry	+421 903 777 777
Cibulka Alfons	+420 888 444 444		

The sorting by name with accent marks is not perfect because Cibulka and Ćorba were put into the same group. Thus, sorting proceeded as if the names did not have the accent marks. This is acceptable in Slovak and Czech languages. To me, it is good enough.

5. More columns and font size

As a standard, the produced list is in two columns. However, sometimes you need a non-standard solutions. For example, if the senior had poor eyesight, a larger font could be used. So that you do not have to dig around in the final .html file, after each start the program overwrites and creates another file with **Notepad** in the same directory as the program.

This file must be named HomePhone**0**.html . It is just like my other program Giftab, which can be found on the Internet. In this file, there is one line where you can enter parameters. Program HomePhone.exe always reads the file and then accepts parameters.

This line should look like this (all uppercase letters):

<HOMEPHONE COLS=2 FONT=16>

It is set in the program that if you do nothing, not even the file **HomePhone0.html** will be created. Therefore the parameter file was created so that we can do changes. So let s do it.

The number of columns in the contact list is determined by the parameter COLS (columns), for which you can use three options

- COLS=1
- COLS=2
- COLS=3

The font size is determined by the parameter FONT. You can use the numeric values from 10 to 40. The final form depends on three parameters. The last parameter is an orientation of the paper sheet size A4, specifically portrait or landscape orientation. To make it easy for you, depending on the number of contacts in the list, here is a guideline table :

Landscape orientation for fewer contacts in larger letters :

COL=1 FONT=40 allows 14 contacts
COL=2 FONT=26 allows 2 x 21 contacts 42 together
COL=3 FONT=20 allows 3 x 26 contacts 78 together

Portrait orientation for more contacts in a smaller font :

COL=1 FONT=30 allows 26 contacts
COL=2 FONT=20 allows 2 x 37 contacts 74 together
COL=3 FONT=14 allows 3 x 50 contacts 150 together

6. For experienced users

So far, we have created a simple table. Sometimes it would be nice to be able to add some extra information. You can do this in the file **HomePhone0.html**. There you can define your header and footer even though it would be at the expense of the number of contacts per A4 page.

Footer is a simple in the file HomePhone0.html it should look like this :

```
<HOMEPHONE COLS=2 FONT=16>
```

This list is created for your grandmother grandson Martin

And here is the result, simple and effective :

Aznavour Charles	+421 999 333 333	Čorba Ábel	+420 888 555 555
Bécaud Gilbert	+421 999 888 888	Čorba Anton	+420 888 666 666
Castro Fidel	+421 999 222 222	Einstein Albert	+421 999 444 444
Černák Igor	+420 888 333 333	Goodman Benny	+421 999 555 555
Černý Eduard	+420 888 222 222	Gorkij Maxim	+421 999 666 666
Černý František	+420 888 111 111	Štofko Branislav	+421 903 123 456
Churchil Winston	+421 999 111 111	Truman Harry	+421 903 777 777
Cibulka Alfons	+420 888 444 444		

This list is created for your grandmother grandson Martin

The text in the footer can contain any html content. The end marks, e.g. `</body></html>`, will be supplemented by the program. Creating the header works similarly. A tag `<h1></h1>` creates a header with a large font.

```
<h1>Phonebook of my grandmother Anastasia</h1>
```

```
<HOMEPHONE COLS=2 FONT=16>
```

This list was created for my grandmother by grandson Martin

And here is the result, simple and effective :

Phonebook of my grandmother Anastasia

Aznavour Charles	+421 999 333 333	Čorba Ábel	+420 888 555 555
Bécaud Gilbert	+421 999 888 888	Čorba Anton	+420 888 666 666
Castro Fidel	+421 999 222 222	Einstein Albert	+421 999 444 444
Černák Igor	+420 888 333 333	Goodman Benny	+421 999 555 555
Černý Eduard	+420 888 222 222	Gorkij Maxim	+421 999 666 666
Černý František	+420 888 111 111	Štofko Branislav	+421 903 123 456
Churchil Winston	+421 999 111 111	Truman Harry	+421 903 777 777
Cibulka Alfons	+420 888 444 444		

This list was created for my grandmother by grandson Martin

I would like to stress once again that such a list will always generate the program effortlessly. Just add new contacts to the file HomePhone.txt and double-click the program HomePhone.exe.

7. Other uses of the program

The program may process any type of data. I also used it to create a list of TV channels for my senior neighbors. Of course, I had to create another directory. Since the program is relatively small, there is no problem to have it on the same disc multiple times. In the list of TV channels, or anything else that you do not have to use the "=" character as the separator between a channel number and name.

UPC Káblovka - kanály

01. Doma	20. Disney
02. ORF 2	21. ARTE
03. STV1	22. Polska
04. TA3	23. Monde
05. CT1	24. Moskva
06. CT2	25. EuroSport
07. Markiza	26. Blava
08. TV JOJ	27. Paprika
09. JOJ PLUS	28. JimJam
10. ORF 1	29. Duck

Warning: The program sorts the numbers as text, so it is necessary for the channels 1-9 to enter a zero before the number (e.g., channel #1 as 01). To simplify your life, perhaps you can find other ways to use the program.

8. Program limitation

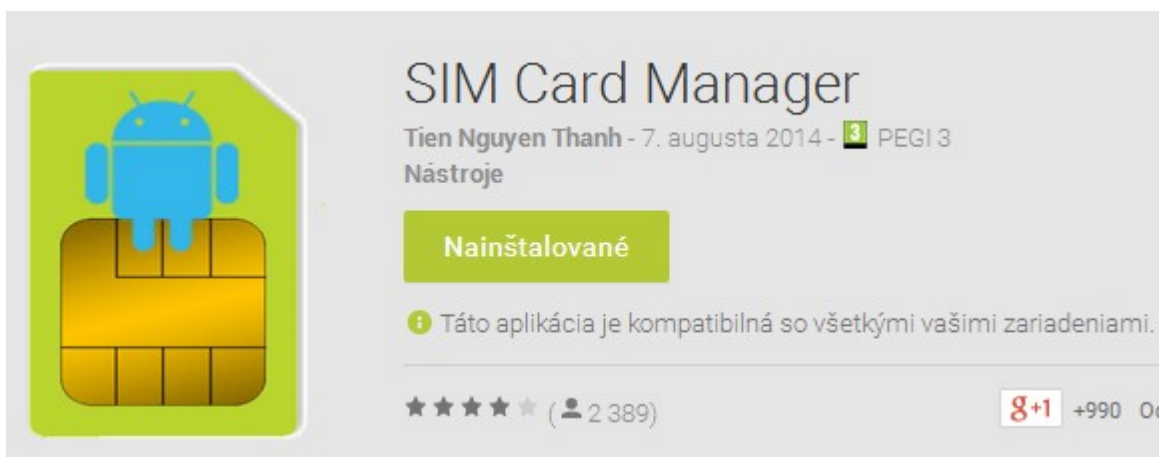
The program can handle a maximum of 150 contacts. The rest will be ignored. Similarly, the maximum length of a single line of a contact is 80 characters including the "=" sign. The remaining characters in the line will be ignored.

9. SIM contacts

When a senior has a cell phone, he/she may have some contacts there, too. Retyping the mobile contacts to a file HomePhone.txt is difficult and moreover is associated with a possibility of a typo in a phone number. Therefore, it is just about getting the contacts from senior's SIM card into your PC .

There is a program **MOBILedit** with the installation application of about 35 megabytes. The program is not free and additionally, you may find out that the program is not supported by the senior's cell phone. The SIM card readers that can be connected to a PC via USB port exist. Many of them, though, may require some software and the outcome is not always certain.

The contacts from the SIM card can be copied to a file on the smartphone which is ran by Android. A necessary software, **SIM Card Manager** application, can be downloaded from Google Play for free.



To use this application with the senior's contacts data, shut down your smartphone and senior's older cell phone. Insert senior's SIM card into your smartphone. This application lets you Import, Export, and Delete. You will need to **Export to SD Card**. Applications will not allow you to name the output file. The file name is of the form :

SimContacts0000.vcf

The file is saved to the directory of the internal SD card of the cell phone (SD Card). As a matter of fact, it is not the one you could have bought for your smartphone as an addition. Now that the contacts are already in the file, this should be transferred to the PC. There are several possibilities how to do that and I will explain only two. Do not forget to return the SIM card to the senior. :-)

Smartphone can be later connected by an USB cable to the PC and the necessary files copied to the directory where you have also program HomePhone.exe. An elegant and wireless option is to email the file as an attachment. On the PC, open the mail and the attachment and save it wherever you want. The **.vcf** file is relatively small, only about 80 kB depending on the number of contacts.

Files with the extension **.vcf** may have a different structure. My program does not support all of them. Before you even start, rename the imported file to **Import.vcf**. Such a file can be opened with the Notepad program, and one contact there looks like this :

```
BEGIN:VCARD  
VERSION:3.0  
FN:Kaufman John  
N:Kaufman John  
TEL;TYPE=CELL:0918123456  
END:VCARD
```

Surely, you won't be retyping your contacts from file to file. In the .zip package, there is attached **VcfToTxt.exe** program that will do it for you. The program opens Import.vcf file and will create a HomePhone.txt file. You still can add contacts and the program HomePhone.exe will create a neat phone numbers directory.

To get the program VcfToTxt.exe not spoil your work, always check whether you had created HomePhone.txt in the directory manually already. In this case VcfToTxt.exe will not create a new file. Therefore, if one file HomePhone.txt is already present, created either manually or by the program, this will not be overwritten. You must decide about overwriting/erasing of an already created HomePhone.txt.

10. Conclusion

The program is a freeware. The author reserves the right to decide where the program will be stored for downloading. If you intend to store the program for downloading on another server, please inform the author.

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