

Create a Clip Art Catalog
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When I was young, I collected everything imaginable – exotic stones and sea shells, rare foreign coins, matchbox cars and model airplanes. Now, I work with computers and have a new hobby – collecting computer clip art.

Having an enormous collection of clip art poses a problem. If I want to browse through my collection of clip art in search of a suitable image, I've got to flounder through my hard drive and look at each graphic one at a time. It would make more sense to print samples of the images and put them on display so they could be viewed more easily.

I finally devised a macro to create a printed catalog of all my clip art. The macro discussed below creates a graphics catalog with 30 graphics on each page (see Figure 1 below). If you have a large collection of clip art, you can use this macro to create a nicely formatted catalog of your own clip art.

Graphic Formats

The macro works with a total of 11 different graphic formats (see Figure 2 below). In a nutshell, these other graphic formats are used by non-WordPerfect programs. A unique file extension is assigned to each different graphic format. You'll notice, for example, that all WordPerfect graphics have a file extension of ".WPG." Lotus 1-2-3 PIC graphics use an extension of ".PIC," and so on.

When you run the macro, it looks at the file extension of each file as it scans through a specified directory. If the file extension matches one of the graphics extensions listed in Figure 2, the macro adds the graphic to the catalog. If the file extension does not match one of the 11 extensions, the macro bypasses the file and moves to the next one.

Creating the Macro

The macro is included as CATALOG.WPM. Be sure to place it in the directory that contains your macros.

Using the Macro

To use the macro, at a blank document screen press Macro (Alt-F10), type "catalog" and press (Enter). The macro displays the message "Enter path to graphic files:" and pauses for you to type a path. You can type a path to any directory that includes graphics. For example, if your graphics are in a directory on your hard drive, you may need to enter something like "c:\wp51\graphics."

If you're uncertain of the path to your graphics directory, press Setup (Shift-F1), (L) Location of Files. The path listed next to option 6 - Graphic Files is your graphics directory.

After entering the path, the macro begins creating your graphics catalog. Depending on the number of graphics in the specified directory, the macro may take several minutes to complete the task. The macro keeps you informed of its progress by displaying the name of the graphic that has just been added to the catalog in the lower left corner of your screen.

After all of the graphics have been added to the catalog, the macro takes you into View Document, displays the first page of the catalog and quits. At this point, you can take a few minutes to review the file in View Document for possible errors before printing it. Use (Page Down) to scroll from page to page in View Document. Press Exit (F7) when you've finished viewing the file.

Printing the Catalog

You'll want to consider a few things before printing the catalog. First, if you have access to several different printers, determine which of the available printers will give you the best output.

The next step is to select a font. I'd recommend something simple and easy to read, such as Times Roman or Helvetica. Select the font by pressing Format (Shift-F8), (D) Document, (F) Initial Base Font. Highlight a 12-point (or 10-cpi) font and press (S) Select. If you're using scalable fonts, type 12 for the point size and press (Enter). Press Exit (F7) to return to the document screen.

You're now ready to print the file. You may want to consider using a special paper for the final output-perhaps a heavy, white bond paper. Since you'll want the final output to look as nice as possible, I'd recommend setting the graphics quality option to High. You can do this by pressing Print (Shift-F7), (G) Graphics Quality and (H) High. With graphics quality set to High, the catalog may take considerably longer to print, but the printed graphics will look much nicer. Press (F) Full Document to begin printing the catalog.

Note: You can also "print" a catalog to a PDF file, which may take far less time and save lots of paper and ink.

Understanding the Macro

The first 10 lines of the macro on page 40 are fairly straightforward. If Reveal Codes is turned on, lines 1-3 turn off Reveal Codes. Line 4 transfers the macro to {LABEL}Error~ on line 54 if the macro encounters an error while running. If Cancel (F1) is pressed while the macro is running, Line 5 transfers macro execution to {LABEL}Cancel~ on Line 59.

If your document screen has not been cleared when you play the macro, lines 6-8 ask you to clear the screen. Lines 9-10 clear two variables that will be used later in the macro.

After the display is turned off (line 11), line 12 prompts you to enter the path to your graphics. The path you enter is assigned to {VARIABLE}path~. Line 13 then displays the message Setting up catalog. Please wait.

Lines 14-20 set the page margins and create a footer. The footer includes the path to your graphic files on the left and a page number on the right.

Lines 21-53 involve some rather complex loops and logic, making this section difficult to explain line by line. Instead, I'll try to provide an overview of how this section works.

Lines 21-53 form a large loop. Notice the {GO}Create~ command on line 53. This routes execution of the macro back to {LABEL}Create~ on line 21. This large loop repeats until every graphic in the specified directory has been added to the catalog.

Lines 25-43 form a second smaller loop within the first one. Notice the {GO}Checkname~ on line 43 that routes execution back to the {LABEL}Checkname~ on line 25. Lines 37-41 of this loop check the filename of each file in the specified directory. If the file extension is one of the 11 graphics extensions permitted (lines 40-41), the macro breaks out of this loop and moves on to {LABEL}Use~ on line 44 where it completes the graphics box. If the file extension is not one of the 11 permitted, the macro moves to the next file (line 42) and executes the loop again (line 43). This smaller loop continues to execute until the macro finds the next graphic file in the directory.

The macro terminates when the {IF} statement beginning on line 26 and ending on line 36 is found to be true. This {IF} statement will always be false until the macro highlights the same file in the specified directory twice, signifying that the macro has reached the last file in the directory. The macro then moves to the top of the document and displays the finished catalog in View Document (line 30). The macro terminates at this point (line 35), leaving you in View Document to review the catalog.



Figure 2

CGM	Computer Graphics Metafile
DHP	Dr. Halo PIC Format
EPS	Encapsulated PostScript
GEM	GEM Draw Format
HPG	Hewlett-Packard Graphics Language Plotter File
IMG	GEM Paint Format
MSP	Microsoft Windows Paint Format
PCX	PC Paintbrush Format
PIC	Lotus 1-2-3 PIC Format
TIF	Tagged Image File Format
WPG	WordPerfect Graphics Format