

SIBO is better than EPOC

A new regular column where die-hard SIBO user's can try and convert the EPOC non-believer.

This Issue - the spreadsheet and the database...

Data is the Series 3's database application. However there are two things to remember about Data, the first it is fairly limited and the second is it's not the only database program available for the 3.

There are many excellent third party database programs available for the 3, Dataview Pro springs to mind. However there is one very powerful database application built into the 3 already, and that is Sheet.

I would like to point out at this point that SIBO sheet is a far better application than EPOC sheet.

Many features in the SIBO version were stripped out of the EPOC release in the same way Word in SIBO is far better than Word in EPOC.



One of the most useful tools in a Word Processor, that of 'Outlining', is completely absent from the EPOC Word!

In the same way the database and table function is missing from Sheet.

EPOC Readers

For those readers who are familiar only with the Series 5, the database function allows you to covert your spreadsheet into a database by highlighting an area and telling the Psion that this is a database. This instruction coverts and opens up a new functionality unavailable in a regular spreadsheet.

In the following example we are going to create a database of clients in Europe and apply search criteria. In part two of this tutorial in the next issue of the P.C.J we're going to look

at using tables and input cells based on a financial model.

Database Fields

To start I am going to set up my database fields, they are;

Name - Client Name

Company - Client's Company Name

Country - Company's Country

Product - Which of my products the client purchases

With some information filled in the database the rows are now records and the columns are fields.

The next stage is to tell the Psion that this is our database. To do this highlight the entire range and press Menu, Database, Set database, Enter.

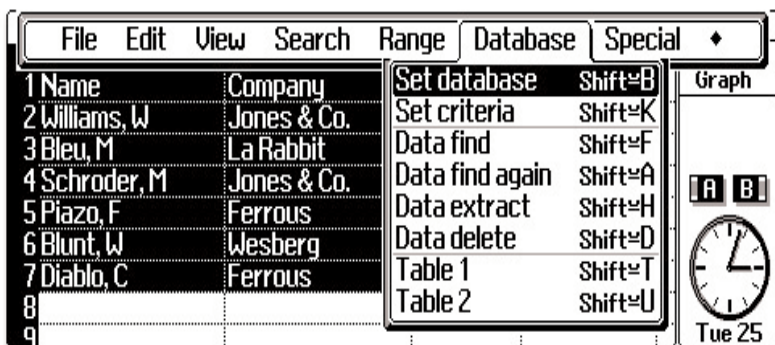
D8					Clients
	A	B	C	D	◆Normal Graph
1	Name	Company	Country	Product	
2	Williams, W	Jones & Co.	England	Ink	
3	Bleu, M	La Rabbit	France	Paper	
4	Schroder, M	Jones & Co.	Germany	Ink	
5	Piazo, F	Ferrous	Italy	Paper Clips	
6	Blunt, W	Wesberg	Germany	Rulers	
7	Diablo, C	Ferrous	Italy	Ink	
8					
9					

A B

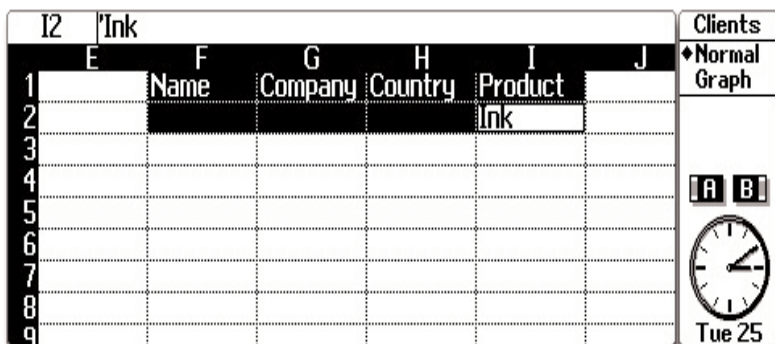


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Setting up the Database Fields



Defining the Database



Setting Criteria

The next step is to get our database to work for us, we do this by setting search fields or criteria.

First copy the field headings to a blank area of the spreadsheet, and then in the cell under the field you wish to search, enter your search criteria. Next highlight the range, and then push Menu, Database, Set criteria, Enter.

If you now move back to your database area and select Menu, Database, Data find, Enter the computer will highlight the first matching record, Data find again brings up the next.

A very useful function is to extract matching records, this is done by again copying the field headings of the database to a blank area of the spreadsheet (in this example under the search criteria). Highlight these

I8					Clients
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8					
9					



Extracted Records

newly pasted field headings and a section of blank cells large enough to accept the search records and press Menu, Database, Data extract, Enter.

Your 3 will then ask Extract unique records only? Pressing No means that records that meet more than one search criteria will be repeated.

You could then extract this data into a new database for mail shots for example.

This is a basic example of using the search criteria, you can use multiple criteria and complex arguments. The in built help and printed user manual lists all available commands.

Far better than EPOC!

