

Introduction

This document is written for the common people and small and medium organizations, in particular public schools and public community centers.

Calamity Jane Express has been set up with the following purposes in mind:

- Introduction into the world of disastrous events, also called calamities, which often have a considerable impact on (a part of) the society we live in, in which even we ourselves might be directly involved.
- The target group are mainly the common people and small and medium organizations (SMO), especially public schools and public community centers, but commercial SMO's are of course also welcome.
- A simple effort, on the level of the common enduser, to show how ICT technology might support us in disastrous real world events.
- An explanation of how the accompanied software works.

The style is deliberately different from the mainstream of calamity related information so far, in that it tries to fascinate the audience for the subject, instead of to scare them off. Some might even call the style a bit "lighthearted", but don't be mistaken by this, because towards the audience the aim is the same: BE AWARE AND PREPARE! It's just an other way of trying to captivate the audience and keep them "calamity-alert".

Disastrous events in our world.

Our attitude towards disasters is often like "WYSIWYG inverted": Wat You DON'T See Is What You DON'T Get. WYSIWYG means: What You See is What You Get, so, "WYSIWYG-inverted" could mean: Wat You DON'T See is What You DON'T Get. Because: has anybody personally gone through a major disaster lately? OK, we got some major disasters that plunged a considerable part of the world into agony and left 50 million people dead. That disaster was called World War 2, happened in Europe and brought it down on its knees. OK, we've got some more wars before it and after it, World War 1, Korea, Vietnam, Africa, Iraq and some local wars here and there. OK, well now we are talking about it, we had a pandemic, the Spanish Flu, almost hundred years ago that killed 20 million people and today we have indeed an a threat of a new pandemic, the Bird Flu, that might take lots of live. And of course we got 9/11, the tsunami, we got Katrina and a lot of other local disasters caused by nature. But with all respect, apart from World War 1 and 2, the disasters of the last 60 years or so are rather local disasters, not plunging the greater part of our world into disaster, does it? And how often do these major disasters happen, that affect a considerable part of our world? Apart from the Spanish Flu that stroke a great part of the world, most often the great disasters, like World War 1 and 2, are man-made and could have been foreseen long before and avoided, right?

As a matter of fact, lot of disastrous events can hit us at anyway, at any place and time that we least expect it. Survivors from the tsunami and 9/11 can absolutely confirm that! On a sunny Sunday morning, 26th December 2004, people living at the coast all of a sudden saw a 10 meter high and tens of kilometres deep monster wave coming at them without warning, only to wash more than 250.000 lives away, literally! And who on 9/11 2001 expected that two fly planes would hit into two skyscrapers in the middle of New York, deliberately? The disaster came out of the blue sky, literally. Today, not many of us, especially in the Western World, have personally been involved in a disastrous event which caused a considerable impact on us for the rest of our life. Thank God, we're saying, because we can see on the media what the impact are on "the others" who ARE involved in such a disaster. Such things DO happen, we know that, but it always happens far away from us and to "**the others**", not to us of course. What we don't see, ain't there right?

But there is more going on...

Our ancestors, who lived thousands of years ago, had their instincts constantly in an "stay-alert" mode. They had to be constantly aware where they walked, slept, what they ate etc, to make sure they

stayed alive. Staying alive was the only thing they could constantly think of, 24/7 a week and the rest of there live, because they could eat something poisoned or be eaten by an animal of prey and die on the spot, just like that...be dead.

Is that now gone today? Well, not quite. People who live e.g in war struck areas, but also soldiers who return from such areas, still have some "stay-alert" instinct on them. But *also* the rest of us still have that instinct in us, deeply hidden, but ready to jump out when our live is in danger. Everybody knows what happens when we, e.g are in a shopping store and all of a sudden a ear deafening explosion happens and a great fire breaks out: everybody runs for the exit, without giving it a single thought. Or did you remember the horror movie "Carrie"? Where were you're hands at the end of that movie? Did you plan to move your hands?

Yes we know, we should be aware, take care and prepare, but we don't, at least the most of us.

The weird thing is that the most of us do take care of disasters in a financial way, by taking an financial insurance for some kind of disaster that might happens to us. So financially we might be aware, take care and prepare so that when disaster strikes, somebody or something at least financially takes care of us and ours (i.e. everybody and everything we have a relation with, like our family, our pets and our properties). So we take care of things financially for the time *after* a disaster has hit us.

But what about the time *before* or *during* a disaster? Most of the time you can't buy it off with money and say "Here take the money mr.Disaster and go home!". Most of us even don't think ahead of what to do in a calamity, until it happens, and then often don't know what to do except probably running away and/or screaming. Maybe we don't know where to start, don't know how long it takes to understand and be able to put it into practice or are just overwhelmed by the amount of information offered concerning calamities. Because there are so many things that can happen to us: this can happen, that can happen.. who knows? The problem is, because there *are* so many things that can happen to us, if we really think about it all day, it would rather make us unsure while the opposite is supposed to be! So we'd better do our daily things and hope for the best, right?

It looks as if things or even people are being ridiculed here, but it is not. It is probably the most natural human habit to do. We really want to be aware and prepare as long as it is a clear and present danger, i.e. it's well defined and constantly visible, at least in our minds. E.g. people in a war zone like some parts of Africa, have a list, at least in their mind, of do's-and-don'ts and a (mental) "checklist" of things and people to take care of when to have to go on the run again. They have to do this on a daily base... if they want to stay alive. And as long as there is no daily base for a calamity-aware attitude, we often just wait until one happens.

But when it happens, we want all the relevant information we can get, and we want it now! This is exactly where Calamity Jane Express should kick in! The purpose of Calamity Jane Express is to show you the information that you need, when you need it. All you need is presented in a checklist, which you can have easily at hand at any moment, because it is already on your computer. You only have to print it!

The basic principles of Calamity Jane Express ®

The basic principles of Calamity Jane Express framework are:

- Providing links where you can (pre-) download emergency information from sites that are supposed to be an authority on that subject.
- Easily send or receive messages from others that provide information about emergencies or links to sites where you can download emergency information
- Have the emergency information already stored on your local storage when you need it
- Easily find the emergency information that you need in the records
- Easily add, change and delete information in the records
- Activate the commands by point-and-clicking the mouse or just pressing the appropriate key (look for the underlined word) 1 time or 2 times (capitals).
- The software is only 2 layers deep, so you don't have to crawl through sub/.../sub-windows to use a command.

Although the records have already been pre-filled with emergency links from authorities on that matter, you can always fill it with any information and links of your own choice. E.g. you can bring documents that are put deeply away in sub\...\sub-maps to the surface by providing a link to it in the table and adding extra metadata (=data about data) to it. This way also Html-“Favourites” can be placed in it, together with extra metadata and you can quickly exchange it with others. Optimal results you get when the other party also has Calamity Jane Express ® software installed. You can also write short notes in it, as a reminder for later. All record-messages can also quickly be sorted on any column.

The structure of Calamity Jane Express ®

The structure of Calamity Jane is as follows:

- The software itself, for:
 - Manipulating the message-records in the MS Jet database
 - Reading or saving the message-records in the sub-maps Html (for Html or .sdf semicolon delimited files) or Files (for unstructured flat text files)
 - Receiving or sending message-records via the InOut sub-map as email via the Internet
- The MS Jet database, where the tables to process upon are temporarily stored. Predefined SQL statements are use to select and manipulate the message-records in the MS Jet database.
- Sub-maps like:
 - Html: to store the html and semicolon delimited .sdf files.
 - InOut: to temporarily store message-records as email before sending or receiving them. Email-headers and errors found in the email structure are also found here.
 - Files: to store other unstructured flat text files. Flat text files can be read into the Title column of the database-tables for lines not longer than 254 characters.
 - System\Help: to store all kinds of html-help files
 - The rest of the maps are empty but are there for future use
 - Config: to store the email settings like ISP data etc.
 - You normally only have to enter the Html, Files and InOut sub-maps. You can do that through the software.
- Each message-record exists of 7 fields: Title, Info, Category, Untitled (for extra information), Address, Email and Hyperlink. In the last 3 fields you can place a hyperlink.

The combination of Title and Address gives you a hyperlink address, where you can click on and the software will let you surf to the appropriate link. The commands are self explanatory: hover over the command and a “Tooltiptext” is appearing telling how the command works. The standard format is flat text files or html and semicolon delimited files, the latter two with a record layout. By dividing a field

into subfields, using a comma as a separator, you can have more hyperlinks in one field. By rotating them, you can change your active hyperlink address.

CONTENTS of USERS HELP (present inside the software)

1. Quickstart	2. Error Handling
3. How-To Email Questions and Suggestions	4. Disclaimer and Copyrights

1. QUICKSTART

This program reads/stores and receives/sends html files and semicolon-delimiter (.sdf) text files in/from a MS Access database. This database has 4 tables that consist of 2 levels named "Standard" and "Favorites". Each level contains 2 tables called "Mother" and "Daughter". The last mentioned tables can exchange data with each other with so-called Extract-buttons (2 extract buttons available).

All actions are only being applied to the data in the table that you see (or a part of it, called a dynaset). Processing takes place on the table or dynaset that is visible to you. No processing takes place outside the visible table/dynaset, except:

- a. when you do an integrity check (optional) on an html file before reading it into the database-table
- b. when you extract data to the "other" table (Mother or Daughter) within one level (Standard or Favourites)
- c. before received data in the InOut subdirectory will be read into the table.

The Sub-maps HTML, InOut and Files contain files with the following structure:

- a. HTML: Special record/table files in html or semicolon (sdf) structure (use Notepad to see structure of these files)
- b. InOut: The above mentioned semicolon files but with the extension .snd. When they are sent the extension becomes .snt. Also .err files can exist that MIGHT show errors when a received file was processed for reading into the table.
- c. Files: Flat text files with any file-extension and with lines no longer than 254 characters per line, can reside here and can be read in the Table. Text will then reside in the "Title" column of the Table.

This program can only process special structured files that are made by this program, but it's easy to examine the structure and make them with an ordinary flat text editor like Notepad.

It is possible to read/write unstructured flat text files (that can have any file extension), as long as each line is not longer than 254 characters. The complete text file will reside under the "Title"-column in the Table. The reverse action is that all text in the Title column can be written in an ordinary flat text file. You must provide the file extension yourself. There is a special button for these called "Dis/assemble".

To know what each button, label etc does, just move and hold (don't press!) the mouse over it, to see the help text for it.

The different colours that you see on the screen DO have a special meaning:

- a. Pink = General Backgroundcolor
- b. Green = The Table
- c. White = Either FileBox (showing Map content) or Field Input for in an active (=highlighted) record
- d. Blue = General Colour of Command Buttons
- e. Yellow = The Table is in a certain state. If things don't work like expected, then whatch the text that these labels/buttons present

f. Red = Watch Out! You are at the brink of irreversibly losing data, because no "ARE YOU SURE" will be asked with this action!

10. Hyperlink address and email address can be put in the address and email column respectively. An additional hyperlink can be placed in the Hyperlink column. If you use shift, ctrl or alt button together with left-mouse button the hyperlink address in the Address- or Email- or Hyperlink-column will be activated. Hyperlinks must start with:

- a. file:// to let it refer to a data or executable file on your desktop or on the network. If it resides on the network like an NT server, you can use the UNC-notation with \\ behind it like file://\NTserver\Users\....
- b. http:// to let it refer to any html-file on the Internet.
- c. mailto: to let it refer to a mail address on the Internet.
- d. news: to let it refer to newsgroups on the Internet.
- e. ftp:// to let it refer to a FTP-site on the Internet.
- f. gopher:// to let it refer to a Gopher-site on the Internet.
- g: ldap:// to let it refer to a LDAP directory on the Internet.

2. ERROR HANDLING

The <escape> key and the <refresh view> button should bring you back to the default situation. If you get too many errors while clicking on a record or clicking buttons, it might be that you act faster than the software and the caches can handle the data. One of the causes might be that you are asking for data that you just processed and that data is still pending in the computer's cache memory. In that case try to modify the BIOS (at start up) by setting the computer cache to "Write through" instead of "Write Back". The latter one always waits sometime before actually writing the data back to disk (i.e. into the database).

And remember: this program is written in Visual Basic 6, which is excellent in User Interfacing but somewhat slow on data processing. So, in some cases you might give it some "air" to do things properly, especially on slower machines. That is why working with small size tables is recommended (a few hunderds or so at maximum).

Pressing the <escape> key is a good thing to finish an editing action, when strange things occur during editing.

Visit CALAMITY JANE EXPRESS (R) at www.calamityjaneexpress.net for updates, ideas or suggestions.

Dee Jay Alexander , Publisher (The Netherlands)

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HOW TO EMAIL QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS (present inside the software)

To make sure your email is processed it must meet the following conditions:

- Send mail as a record. This can easily be done with this program. If you don't want or can't use this program then you must send it with your traditional mailer as a record with 7 fields, and a semicolon ";" (without quotes) must separate each field. Each field may not exceed 254 characters. You can have more than 1 record in your mail. Any other text outside your records will be ignored. If you send email with a traditional mailer, then place the letters "cje-" (without quotes) into your "subject:" as the first word. Behind it you can place any text.

Example of sending a question if you use a traditional mailer.

Let the content of the flat text file look like this:

- Tablefresh-button doesn't work ;if I push on the radio button Tablefresh, nothing happens ;problem ; <more text here if you wish> ;;
- Can not save table as file ;When I try to save my table as a file nothing happens ;problem ;<more text if you wish>;;
- Do not use ";" (without quotes), except as a field delimiter. Every record/line has 6 times ";" as a field delimiter!
- Etc... and don't forget to place the word "cje-" (without quotes) at the begin of the "subject:" if you use a traditional mailer.
- Email that has not the layout given above, will automatically be ignored by my email system.

Replies to questions about this program will not be done personally but will be put in a kind of FAQ table that can be downloaded periodically.

If you send suggestions and/or ideas than it is assumed that you give it away without any conditions. If you want to make conditions than PLEASE don't send any suggestions and/or ideas.

For order informations like cd's or printed material please contact emailaddress beneath.

Mail address: DeeJayAlexander@calamityjaneexpress.net

Visit CALAMITY JANE EXPRESS (R) at www.calamityjaneexpress.net for updates, ideas or suggestions.

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DISCLAIMER AND COPYRIGHTS (present inside the software)

1. This version of CALAMITY JANE EXPRESS (R) MessageBrowserMailer is considered to be freeware.
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3. CALAMITY JANE EXPRESS (R) MessageBrowserMailer may be shipped with any other product, commercial or non-commercial, on the condition that this disclaimer and copyright file is accompanied with it.
4. This software, the help files and all files that have a copyright (c) note may NOT be changed.
5. Users should COMPLETELY HAVE and USE this product on THEIR OWN RISK.
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7. The product may only be hosted or shipped in its original state. Add-ons made by third parties must be hosted and/or shipped clearly apart from the CALAMITY JANE EXPRESS (R) MessageBrowserMailer. Add-ons (where allowed) can always be installed next to the product, AFTER the original CALAMITY JANE EXPRESS (R) MessageBrowserMailer product has been installed by a user.
8. Give the CALAMITY JANE EXPRESS (R) the credits for its product(s)

This version of the Record MessageBrowserMailer will not be upgraded anymore, but only updated when e.g. bugs etc. are found. This is because the next generation of CALAMITY JANE EXPRESS (R) MessageBrowserMailer will be made with more generic and up-to-date methodologies and technologies, so stay tuned

Visit CALAMITY JANE EXPRESS (R) at www.calamityjaneexpress.net for updates, ideas or suggestions.

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That's all to it!

Have fun!