



FoxPro 2

—*the*—
COMPLETE REFERENCE

**EDWARD JONES
& DAVID NESBITT**

A COMPREHENSIVE DESKTOP RESOURCE – IDEAL FOR EVERY FOXPRO 2 USER

FoxPro 2: The Complete Reference

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FoxPro 2: The Complete Reference

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Introduction

From its more humble beginnings as FoxBASE, Fox Software's relational database manager for the PC has grown into FoxPro 2, a product that many agree sets the standard for database management in the DOS world. FoxPro 2 gives you speed, dBASE compatibility, a powerful applications development environment, and much more. FoxPro also provides relational query-by-example and implementation of SQL commands for fast, simple retrieval of data. You'll find details on all these features and many more in this book.

About This Book

This book is designed to meet the needs of both beginners and intermediate to advanced users of FoxPro. Overall, you will find material that leans toward beginners in the front half of the book, while material that appeals to advanced users is primarily in the back half of the book. Throughout this text, you will find exercises and real-world examples that you can follow to see how you can most effectively use FoxPro. And while you will be better off with the features in the latest version of FoxPro, the book is designed to be used with all versions of FoxPro, up to and including version 2.0.

How This Book Is Organized

This book is divided into five sections. Part I covers the basics of FoxPro and is written in a demonstration-by-example style. Part II covers programming with FoxPro; this section contains numerous examples of program code that you can adapt to your specific tasks. Part III details the use of FoxPro on a network and how applications can be written for use on a network. Part IV contains a detailed reference to all commands, functions, and system memory variables used by FoxPro, as well as a chapter on how to optimize the FoxPro application. Part V consists of four appendixes containing tables of information helpful to all FoxPro users.

Chapter 1 introduces new users to FoxPro, providing coverage of system requirements, installation, and the menu and command structure of the program. In Chapter 2, FoxPro's user interface is detailed and all menu options are explained, along with instructions for using dialog boxes in FoxPro. Chapter 3 starts off the actual use of databases by showing you how to design database files, how to add and list data, and how to change the structure of a file. Chapter 4 builds on these concepts by showing how data can be rearranged through sorting and indexing.

Chapter 5 shows how you can structure various types of queries to retrieve the data you need. Chapter 6 continues this subject through the use of Relational Query By Example (RQBE), a feature of FoxPro 2. Chapters 7 and 8 deal with getting your desired data on paper, in the form of reports or mailing labels. In Chapter 9, you learn how you can use macros to automate your work, and Chapter 10 shows how you can use FoxPro's power to manage relational databases.

Chapters 11, 12, and 13 are more advanced in nature than the chapters that precede them. In Chapter 11, you'll learn how you can use the screen design tools in FoxPro 2 and in earlier versions of FoxPro to design screens for viewing and editing data. Chapter 12 shows how you can use various FoxPro tools and the Editor in FoxPro, which is used extensively when writing programs. Chapter 13 details the use of the Menu Builder and the Project Manager, tools unique to FoxPro 2 that aid in developing sophisticated applications.

Chapters 14 through 19 cover programming in FoxPro. These chapters contain detailed information on how you can control events within FoxPro programs; how you can handle data entry, editing, and reporting needs; how you can tailor a user interface using FoxPro's powerful commands; and how you can use the more advanced commands and functions within FoxPro for programming needs.

Chapters 20 and 21 specifically deal with the needs of the FoxPro user or programmer on a network: Chapter 20 details the use of FoxPro on a network, while Chapter 21 provides tips and techniques needed when programming applications for use on a network.

In Chapters 22 and 23 you will find a detailed command reference and function reference. These chapters are extensive, so you will have an excellent reference to all FoxPro commands and functions once you are familiar with the program. Chapters 24 and 25 round out the book with coverage of FoxPro's system memory variables and tips on optimizing FoxPro.

The appendixes provide listings of file types and system functions used by FoxPro, along with an ASCII table.

Conventions Used in This Book

Throughout this book, we have attempted to follow style conventions to make your understanding of the various elements of FoxPro use and programming as clear as possible. For example, any items that you are asked to type in will appear in **boldface** type. Key presses are indicated with small caps (ALT-D, for example), variables in syntax statements are set in italic type (*expl*, for example), and FoxPro commands and functions are set in uppercase (QUIT, for example). (Note that FoxPro will accept commands typed in either upper- or lowercase. We have chosen uppercase for consistency and readability.)

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