

ConcatNumeric Plug-in

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This manual describes the use of the *ConcatNumeric* Plug-in for thinkDB™ 2.0. For more information on thinkDB 2.0 and other thinkDB Plug-ins, please visit <http://www.thinkingbytes.com>. For information on additional thinkDB Plug-ins created by PDA Bytes, please visit <http://www.pdabytes.com>.

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1. thinkDB Plug-in Overview

A thinkDB Plug-in is simply an add-on program that fills a specific purpose in thinkDB. As such, they extend the functionality of thinkDB. For example, there is currently (as of thinkDB 2.0) no means to concatenate 2 Text fields together. If you have a tinyByte™ with a FirstName Text field and a LastName Text field, there is no facility for joining them together (concatenation) and having them appear as one field of "FirstName LastName" (or "LastName, FirstName"). A Plug-in can fill this void.

2. *ConcatNumeric* Overview

The main purpose of the *ConcatNumeric* Plug-in is to simply concatenate a Text (including Memo) and a numeric (integer, long, or auto-increment) field together and place the result into a third Text (or Memo) field.

3. Installation

There are a couple of ways to install a thinkDB Plug-in (or any Palm OS application):

- a. Double-click the .prc file to be installed.
- b. Select Install from within Palm Desktop and choose the .prc file.

In both cases, the Palm™ Install Tool will then present a dialog to continue installation. After doing a HotSync®, the Plug-in will be installed into thinkDB and is ready for use. To verify that it was installed correctly, launch thinkDB on your handheld, choose Tools/Plug-in Manager from the application menu. Tap the arrow beside "Plug-In:" and you should see the Plug-in listed. If not, repeat install instructions. If you do see it listed, it has been installed.

4. Un-installing

To remove a Plug-in from thinkDB, first remove the Plug-in from all fields in all your tinyBytes. If you do not, you will encounter problems and could potentially corrupt data. Once you have removed all references of it from your tinyBytes, choose Tools/Plug-in Manager from the thinkDB application menu. Tap the arrow beside "Plug-In:", tap on the Plug-in you wish to remove, then tap the "Delete..." button.

5. Usage Overview

Before configuring any Plug-in, you must first create the fields that the Plug-in requires for both input and output. The input for this Plug-in is 1 text/memo field, 1 numeric (integer, long, or auto-increment) field, and 1 (optional) text/memo field. The output is a single text/memo field. (Descriptions of these input and output fields follow.) After creating these fields, continue with the instructions for configuring the Plug-in to utilize these fields.

a. Configuring Plug-in fields:

1. From the Field Editor, select Field Type ThinkDB Plug-in from the Field Type list. Selecting the small box to the right will then open the Field Properties dialog.
2. From the Plug-in list, select *ConcatNumeric*. Three fields will appear, "Text", "Number" and "Results In".
3. Selecting "Text" will allow you to choose a Text (or Memo) field to use as the first field on the concatenation. You can also simply specify a constant value.
4. Selecting "Number" will allow you to choose an integer, long or auto-increment field to use as the second field on the concatenation.
5. Selecting "Separator" will allow you to choose a text (or memo) field or a constant to use as a separator between the "Text" and "Number".
6. Selecting "Results In" will allow you to choose a Text (or Memo) field to store the returned (concatenated) value.

b. Running the Plug-in:

There are 2 methods for having any Plug-in perform its duties:

1. Place the "plugged-in" field onto a form and tap it.
2. "Apply" the Plug-in from the "Filtered Operations" screen (which is one of the menu options that appears by tapping on the "tool" icon).

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