

'ExportVCS' Plug-In

This manual describes the use of the *vcsPlugIn* for thinkDB 2.5. This Plug-In will work for DataViz's SmartList To Go but some of the terminology used in this document may have changed for SmartList To Go (tinyBytes are SmartLists, 'thinkDB Plug-In' is 'SmartList Plug-In', etc). For more information on SmartList To Go, please visit <http://www.dataviz.com/products/smartlisttogo> . If you want additional information on thinkDB Plug-Ins, please visit <http://ca.geocities.com/sltgplugins> .

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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. Plug-Ins are usually created by third-party developers to "plug into" thinkDB on a Palm OS based handheld.

2. *vcsPlugIn* Overview

a. Purpose:

This Plug-In allows the user to create appointments and tasks in the 'default datebook' application from within a tinyByte record by exporting them in vCalendar format using the Exchange Manager. The user can either supply all the required information to schedule the appointment/task, or require the user to complete the appointment/task information from a popup dialog in the target application.

b. Requirements:

This Plug-In requires at least Palm OS4 to run.

3. Installation

a. Upgrading from a previous version:

If you are upgrading from a previous version of a Plug-In, the following is some special information to help you avoid problems. Before attempting to configure the Plug-In fields (Section 5), it is necessary to "un-configure" the old *Plug-In* by using the special Plug-In named *Update.prc* that is included in the zip. Install *Update.prc* if you do not have it already installed and then do the following steps:

- From the Field Editor, select the small box to the right of the field you have previously selected as the *Plug-In* field to get to the Field Properties screen.
- From the Plug-In list, select *Upgrade* and press the OK button.

Installation (continued)

There are a number of ways to install a thinkDB Plug-In (or any Palm OS application or database). There is a demo tinyByte (.pdb) included in the zip which shows a working example of what the Plug-In can do. This may also be installed in the same method.

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

In both cases, the Palm Install Tool will then present a dialog to continue installation of the selected files to install. 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 thinkDB application menu. Tap the arrow beside "Plug-In" and you should see **vcsPlugIn** listed. If not, repeat the 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 all the fields that the Plug-In requires for both Inputs and Results.

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 **vcsPlugIn**. This Plug-In has 9 Inputs and no Results.

vcsPlugIn Inputs:

Type: two choices available

Task (ToDo entry)

Event (Calendar entry)

Command: two choices available

Add directly: no dialog takes place.

Add w/ Dialog: allows the user to add/confirm details within the Calendar/Task application.

Text: A text field containing the description.

Start Time: A time field to represent the start of the appointment or task alarm.

End Time: A time field to represent the end of the appointment.

Date: A date field to represent the date of the appointment or due date of a task.

Alarm: An integer, long, or checkbox field representing the alarm setting.

Priority: An integer, long, or checkbox field representing the priority of a task.

Note: A memo field containing a note to associate with the appointment/task.

b. Running the Plug-In:

There are two 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). This Plug-In ignores this method.

6. Known Problems/Issues

- The Task application on the T5 and the T/X sets the alarm for a task at the correct time, but one day in advance.
- The Plug-In will use 8am for the alarm time (adjusted by the alarm input) should no start time be supplied for a task with a due date.
- If the end time is earlier than the start time for an Event, the Plug-In will adjust end time to equal start time.
- If no text description is provided, the Plug-In will insert one.
- If no date is provided for an Event, the current date will be used.