

Postcode PA

Update History

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Introductory Note

Registered customers will receive regular updates to Postcode PA as long as their account is current, at no extra charge. Updates will be sent out approximately twice per year and will include both the latest version of the program (with any new or revised features) and the latest set of data.

Your Feedback Please...

Please let us have your feedback & suggestions for new or improved features.

Version 3.0.0 – 11 April 2009 – Data Set Q1, 2009

This update includes a new data set, a major new feature, compatibility with FMP 10, some minor bug fixes and one other minor but important change.

New Features:

- PCPA is now compatible with the newly released FMP 10. Previously there was a bug that affected certain functions in the Plus and Premium versions of PCPA on FMP 10.
- Standard & Premium version of PCPA (FMP 8-10 only) can now use our new route planner. As opposed to simple A to B route planning available on many websites, the PCPA route planner tries to work out the best route for travelling between multiple destinations. The final route is then displayed using Google Maps. The Route Planner is provided as a completely open sample file that can be used as is or you can integrate the logic into your own system. Postcode PA Route Planner can aid companies requiring advance planning of complex logistics or even the one-man band who needs to work out his best route for the day.
- An alternative version of the PCPA_Interface file is now available that does not display in the Open Remote dialog box.

Improvements:

- In the questionnaire page, various references to the old 'FSA' have been changed to 'FileMaker TechNet' and 'FileMaker Business Alliance'.

Bug Fix:

- Fixed the Get Directions (Multimap) feature that broke when Multimap recently changed the URL syntax.
- Corrected a reference in one of the integration example files that referred to RAC maps instead of Google maps.

Other Important Changes:

- **Read this if you do not use our built-in Show Dialog script parameter option but 'roll your own' dialog boxes for users to enter the postcode:** PCPA provides the option for you to use the 'Show Dialog' script parameter when calling most scripts - in which case you do not need to create your own dialog box or manage the feedback from it. However some users chose to not use the 'Show Dialog' script parameter, but to roll their own dialog boxes. If a user had rolled his own dialog box and swapped around the buttons, e.g button 1 was Cancel and button 2 was OK, then PCPA would have returned the value 'Cancelled' in the Status field, because it checked for the Get(LastMessageChoice) value and in our own dialog boxes, button 2 was always 'Cancel'. For some users this caused a problem. Now, the 'Cancelled' status is only returned if the user clicks 'Cancel' in PCPA's own dialog box. If you roll your own dialog boxes, then PCPA will attempt to continue the procedure regardless of which button is clicked – because we don't know what you have defined for your dialog buttons. Therefore, you must ensure that the script in your own database files provides suitable error checking, so that if your user clicks the 'Cancel' button, then you should not continue to call the script in PCPA.

Version 2.7.0 – 22 December 2009 – Data Set Q3, 2008

This update includes a new data set only.

Version 2.6.0 – 6 April 2008 – Data Set Q2, 2008

This update includes a new data set, new features, some improvements and a bug fix.

New Features:

- The plotter module (v2.2) can now save the generated map directly to the desktop. Supported file formats include:
 - High Resolution (vector):** PDF (Mac only), EMF (Windows only), SVG.
 - Low Resolution (72 dpi):** BMP (Windows only), PICT (Mac only), JPG, PNG, TIF, GIFSaved files will automatically be renamed with a suffix, e.g. -1 or -2 if a file with the same name already exists.
- Plus & Premium in FMP 9 only. The pop up window displaying a list of all matching properties at the postcode can now be expanded to show more records.
- Basic & Standard in FMP 8/9: Users with a Basic or Standard licence can now use the “Show Dialog” script parameter when calling the “Get Address (Basic)” script. This will cause the script to display an input dialog for your user.

Improvements:

- Opening PCPA on a terminal which does not have a PCPA licence no longer causes an error dialog to be displayed saying “This computer is not registered to use Postcode PA”.
- In previous versions, if an error was encountered during the PCPA startup procedure an error message may have been displayed and the script would have ‘halted’. This meant that the opening sequence in your own database would not have completed. All ‘halt’ script steps have now been changed to ‘exit’ to enable your opening sequence to complete as expected.
- FileMaker 8/9: We have changed the way that PCPA generates unique IDs for computers during the registration process. Previously some IDs were not unique and you may have seen a message saying “This computer is already registered to use PCPA”, when it was not. After changing your PCPA files to this new version, all registered computers should update their own unique ID automatically. If you had seen this error message then you will need to reregister those specific computers. Once updated, Windows computers will no longer need the C:\PCPA folder.
- The “Get Address (Basic)” script can now also be used by users with a Plus or Premium licence. This enables them to use our ‘Compare’ sample file to verify existing address data.
- The “Postcodes in Radius” script has been improved to filter out all foreign characters from the returned data.

Bug Fix:

- Plus & Premium only: When looking up an address for which the postcode was not known, previous versions may have not listed all matching streets. For example, a search for “Highfield Avenue NW11” would have shown that exact match but have omitted the option of “Station Approach, Highfield Avenue NW11”. This has been fixed.
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Version 2.5.5 – 20 December 2007 – Data Set Q4, 2007

This update includes a new data set only.

Version 2.5.0 – 1 July 2007 – Data Set Q2, 2007

This update includes a new data set and changes to the Plotter module.

The Postcode PA Plotter module (available for free with the FileMaker 7/8 Standard & Premium licences only) has been improved as follows:

- You can now select the font style of your label text (see edit options screen)
 - You can now select the font size of your label text (see edit options screen)
 - Plotter is now fully compatible with Windows Vista (requires updated plug-in to be installed)
 - Plotter known issues: If you have more than 22 popular locations, the colour of the additional popular locations will be incorrect.
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Version 2.4.0 - 25 February 2007 – Data Set Q1, 2007

This update includes a new data set and changes to solve some multi-user issues.

- FileMaker Pro 7/8 versions: The access privileges of the three main files (Data, Interface and Users) are now set to allow access with the FileMaker Network (fmapp) by default. In previous versions, PCPA was set to single-user only and the multi-user option was set programmatically when a user registered a copy of PCPA with a multi-user registration code. However the previous logic prohibited PCPA being registered when hosted by FileMaker Server and caused problems in peer-to-peer networks. These issues have been resolved by this change.
 - PCPA Standard & Premium on FileMaker Pro 7/8 only: Fixed a problem where the “Find postcodes in a radius” function was returning a foreign character “□” in the resulting postcode list.
 - FileMaker Pro 7/8 versions: Some customers reported problems when trying to complete the “Request Demonstration Registration Code” form. This has been fixed.
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Version 2.3.0 - 25 September 2006

This update applies almost exclusively to the Plotter module, enabling you to plot dots on a UK map. New features include:

- You can now plot up to 3333 dots on a single map (previously 500).
 - You can now add your own popular locations to plot in addition to your data.
 - Dots and labels can now be assigned a level of transparency.
 - Dots and labels are now much smoother, improving the look of your maps.
 - Speed improvements and feedback on progress for larger data sets.
 - Improved error messages on dots that failed to plot correctly.
 - Removed annoying pop up dialog when a postcode was less than 5 characters in length (this change also affects the “Get Coordinates” function in the Standard & Premium versions).
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Version 2.2.2 - 17 July 2006

When opened in the just released FileMaker Pro 8.5 on the new Intel based Mac (only), Postcode PA produced an error message and closed.

You only need to download the 2.2.2 update if you have any users using Postcode PA with FileMaker Pro 8.5 on an Intel Mac. The problem does not occur with earlier versions of Postcode PA on FileMaker Pro 8.0 or 7.0 on G4/G5 Macs or on Windows, nor on FileMaker Pro 8.5 on a G4 or G5 Mac.

There are no other changes in this update over version 2.2.1

Version 2.2.1 - 4 July 2006

Some users had problems using a single user licensed copy of Postcode PA on FileMaker Server.

This fix ensures that all files now open as multi-user, even if the user only has one licence. Therefore the files are available from FileMaker directly or under FileMaker Server. You will still only be able to use Postcode PA on the number of computer for which you have purchased licences.

There are no other changes in this update over version 2.2.0

Version 2.2.0 – released 15 June 2006 – Data Set Q2, 2006

New features:

- New data set.
- If you're using only a Basic or Standard licence in FileMaker 7/8, then you now have the option of a much smaller data file (about 600Mb). The 5Gb file is still required if you have any users with a Plus or Premium licence.
- Introduced a completely new Plotter module – free of charge! This module works with the Standard & Premium version of Postcode PA (FileMaker 7/8 only) and enables you to plot dots on a UK map to show where your customers are or which products sell in different areas and much more. This is a very flexible and useful module for a graphical representation of your business data across the UK.
- Added a new function in the Plus & Premium versions called “No. of Households”. This enables you to enter a full or partial postcode, e.g. “WD6 5QG” or “WD6” and it will return the total number of individual households - a very useful feature for marketing analysis.
- In the Plus & Premium versions, when the pop-up window displays a list of individual properties from which to select, occasionally you'll find the exact property you want is not listed (e.g. if it is not on the Royal Mail database yet). There is now an extra button at the bottom of the list to “Return the common address elements only”, enabling you to automatically return those elements to your database and manually add the building number.
- In the Plus & Premium versions, if there is only one address matching the postcode provided, the pop-up window is no longer displayed and the address is returned.
- The postcode you supply to Postcode PA no longer needs to be correctly formatted with a space in the middle. For example, you can now supply “WD6 5QG”, “WD65QG” or “W D65 Q G”.
- If you supply Postcode PA with an incorrectly formatted postcode, e.g. “WD 65Q G”, it will be correctly formatted and returned to the interface file as “WD6 5QG”.
- The RAC directions mapping utility has been changed to Google Maps.

Improvements:

- All versions: When using the Basic Get Address script (mainly used by the Basic & Standard versions but also used in the Compare sample file for all versions), PCPA previously displayed an error dialog if the postcode was not recognised. This was very annoying if you'd created a script to automatically loop through a large set of records, e.g. when validating old addresses. Now it just returns "Error 3" in the status field, e.g. when you process a foreign addresses or when a UK postcode is not recognised – so you can now loop through a data set without interruption.
- Standard & Premium versions: When calculating a distance between two postcodes, if one of the postcodes is not recognised, the error dialog is no longer displayed – just an error code is returned. This enables you to loop through records without interruption, e.g. in the Find My Nearest feature.
- The splash screen on closing Postcode PA is no longer displayed.
- The Productive IT name and address now only appear on the "About" screen.
- If a PC is not registered to use Postcode PA but the files still get opened as part of your database opening script, an error dialog is no longer displayed.
- The demonstration questionnaire has now been integrated into the solution for the FileMaker 7 versions, instead of producing an email template to complete.

Bug Fixes:

- Solved a problem where the "optional" hint when entering a password was required (i.e. not optional). The hint is now optional.
- Addressed an issue where some P. O. Box postcodes in Northern Ireland showed an erroneous northing co-ordinate.
- Improved the return of error codes. Error 9 is now always shown when your licence does not cover the function requested. Other error codes have also been improved.

Version 2.1 – released 25 November 2005 – Data Set Q4, 2005

New features:

- New data set.
- FileMaker 7/8 Standard & Premium versions: Added "Find postcodes within a radius" feature. This feature cannot be added to the FileMaker 5/6 version for technical reasons.
- AppleScript integration has been created for the Basic "Get Address" & "get Distance" features. Open, editable AppleScripts are available with a sample integration script for the Address Book. Further AppleScripts can be provided as a custom development option. Note: Currently, the Address Book example works in 10.3.9 but not in OSX 10.4.x.

Improvements:

- Plus & Premium versions: Improved the highlight feature when selecting an individual property from the address selection window. The number of properties matching the text entered in the highlight field is now accurate in both FileMaker 7 & 8 and the flashing / screen refreshing has been reduced.
- Plus & Premium versions: Darkened the scroll bars around the address selection window. This makes it easier to see on Macintosh computer (which have a different gamma setting to Windows).
- FileMaker 7/8 versions: Added sort buttons to the "Find a Postcode" features. You can now sort the listed streets by Address 1, 2, 3, Town, County or Postcode to help you locate the correct one.
- FileMaker 7/8 versions: Turned off the "spell check" feature for FileMaker 8 users so the postcode or address fields do not show the new red underline spelling feature introduced with FileMaker 8. This only will only affect the Postcode PA files (i.e. not your own files) as the feature is file specific.

Bug Fixes:

- Standard & Premium versions: Fixed a problem with geographical coordinates (e.g. for distance calculations) involving any postcodes in Northern Ireland (BT). These were previously producing erroneous results.
 - All version: Fixed a minor problem whereby the registered list of computers failed to print. This requires changing the "PCPA_Users" file which maintains a list of all registered computers and so should only be done if you're prepared to re-register all users PCs.
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Version 2.0.5 – released 10 October 2005 – Data Set Q3, 2005

- New data set.
 - Basic & Standard versions: Added an extra address field "Address 3", fixing a bug where not all address fields were populated for some addresses.
 - Basic & Standard versions (FileMaker 5/6 only): Improved the "Find a Postcode" function (to match FileMaker 7/8 version). The search query is now entered in one field. Searching for a partial postcode was also added.
 - FileMaker 7/8 versions: When using the "Find a Postcode" function, the words or partial words entered in the search query are now highlighted in the found set. Searching for a partial postcode was also added.
 - See the "New Features in Version 2.0.5" document for more details.
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Version 2.0.4 – released 12 July 2005 – Data Set Q2, 2005

Minor bug fixes & adjustments:

- Users with server & site licenses no longer need to register individual computers. This addresses some registration problems for Citrix or Terminal Services customers.
 - The **Get Address** script for Basic & Standard users is now also available to Plus & Premium users, allowing use of the sample address checker "PCPA_Compare" supplied with all versions (since this file uses the Basic Get Address script to work).
 - Some addresses with an abbreviation, e.g. "St. Leonards Street" were returned without a space between the "St." & "Leonards". This has been corrected.
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Version 2.0.3 – released 17 June 2005 – Data Set Q2, 2005

Download [Patch 1](#) from the Postcode PA website (on the [Update History](#) page) if you have the following problems. Any individual computers previously registered to use PCPA will need to be reregistered.

Minor bug fixes & adjustments:

- FM7 only: Fixed a rare problem where a few users reported not being able to access the files when hosted on FileMaker Server 7.
 - FM7 only: Minor change to users file to stop an error message that appeared on closing.
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Version 2.0.2 – released 7 June 2005 – Data Set Q2, 2005

Minor bug fixes & adjustments:

- FM7 only: When searching by organisation name or street name, the top of the screen now correctly shows the search criteria rather than the value in the first record found.
 - FM7 only: Changed the start-up procedure. Users must now open the PCPA_Interface file first. Removed the option to open the PCPA_Data file first.
 - FM7 only: Changed the layout based dialogs for entering & checking passwords to use the built-in Show Custom dialog function.
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Version 2.0.1 – released 28 May 2005 – Data Set Q2, 2005

Minor bug fixes & adjustments:

- Fixed an AppleScript bug on OSX version which caused PCPA under certain circumstances to not register the computer and display a “spinning ball of death” on opening.
 - Adjusted the paste button in the registration screen to trim any leading or trailing spaces off the registration name or code copies from the users email.
 - Added a --- line separator in the Scripts menu above the “Request Demonstration Licence” script.
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Version 2.0.0 – released 01 May 2005 – Data Set Q2, 2005

Version 2.0 is available for FileMaker 6 & 7. Many features have been added or changed. The following list summarises only the major changes:

- Product types have been revised and names have changed to Basic, Standard, Plus & Premium. Please see spec sheet for what is included as this has changed considerably.
 - Version 2 is available in FileMaker 7 versions as well as FileMaker 6 (although only Basic & Standard types are available in FileMaker 6)
 - Product range extended to include full address matching as well as existing thoroughfare matching.
 - FileMaker 7 versions of PCPA include full address checking, including matching house number to postcode, organisation name and other useful data.
 - You can now mix licence types within the one product, i.e. you can have ten users with premium licences, five with plus, three with standard and one with basic.
 - Postcodes entered no longer require a space, i.e. they can be entered with or without the space.
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Version 1.0.0 – released January 2005 – Data Set Q4, 2004

Initial release for FileMaker 6 only. Version 1 only provided Thoroughfare PAF (e.g. to street level only) and was available in two product types, Basic & Full. The Basic product provided distance and mapping functions only. The Full product included address details (thoroughfare PAF).