ged2dot

GEDCOM to Graphviz dot

version 1.7

macOS (Apple Store)

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1 General

This application allows you to create a nice diagram of a family tree.

The actual image file generation is optional. The main purpose of the application ged2dot is to create the dot script the can be separately used with **dot**. The current version of ged2dot only supports generating SVG and PS2 image files directly. For other formats like JPG, PNG, PDF and others the application generate the *dot* file and prints out the command that can be copy/pasted and executed into Terminal by the user to generate the image. This limitation is a consequence of the fact that all applications distributed via the AppStore are “sandboxed”, meaning that they have severe restrictions on accessing parts of the system where the **dot** utility might be installed.

In summary, the primary purpose of this application is to generate a “script” file in the *dot* language, that can be successively used by the **dot** utility to create an image in a variety of formats.

Each individual in the family is represented by a shaped bubble.

Married couples are represented together in a box. If an individual has had more than one spouse the box is automatically split into connected bubbles to avoid confusion in the representation of step-children.

A nice feature of the ged2dot application is that it automatically arranges the family tree into horizontal sections (optionally color-coded) representing each generation. The generation level is indicated on the left side of the diagram.

2 User interface

There are three “tabs”

- GEDCOM tab. Here you select the input GEDCOM file
- Dot tab. Here you specify the location for the generated dot files
- Image tab. Optional processing, see below.

The recommended steps are:

1. Define the location of the input GEDCOM file (in the first tab)
2. Define the directory location for the generated Dot file (in the second tab). This must be done once per session, and is a consequence of the sandboxing issue: by doing this selection the user in practice authorizes the application ged2dot to access that directory.

3. Similarly define the directory location for the generated image files (in the third tab). This is required, regardless of whether the option to generate the image file is on or off, because ged2dot prints out the required command in any case.

4. Finally you can click the button labelled “Create DOT File”. You will see some text message in the bottom area of the window, and if everything went well, it will tell you the location on your file system where the dot file was generated.

3 Input GEDCOM file

The application ged2dot has been successfully used with GEDCOM files created by applications Gramps, PAF5, “Ancestral Quest”, “Legacy Family Tree”, and family trees containing over 400 individuals.

If you get any error using GEDCOM files created by other genealogy software please contact the author of ged2dot.

4 Options for generating the DOT file

There are five options that you can select for additional information to be included in each bubble representing each individual of the family tree. Prerequisite is that the information is present in the input GEDCOM file.

At a minimum each individual bubble will contain the name, surname and nickname, if present in the GEDCOM file.

If you intend to print the image with a laser printer you might prefer to leave the “Color” option off.

It’s possible to include a thumbnail picture in each bubble, but all this information must be present in the GEDCOM file. It’s recommended that before adding the thumbnail to the GEDCOM file, the original picture is resized to a width of 100 pixels, for example using ImageMagick:

```
$ convert inputPicture -resize 100 outputThumbnail
```

5 Optional IMG processing

The Image tab refers to processing that is “nice to have” but not guaranteed to work on your particular installation.

There is an option to have a viewer opening up the created image file. Which particular application will be used as a viewer depends on your system settings.

The format “PS2” can be useful as an intermediate format for the creation of PDF files.

Appendix A – Useful links

- https://gedcom2dot.wordpress.com/
- https://genealogy.3utilities.com/
- https://graphviz.gitlab.io/ to create the image file
- https://gramps-project.org to create the input GEDCOM file
- http://posterazor.sourceforge.net/ for printing large posters
- https://imagemagick.org/index.php to resize thumbnails before adding them to GEDCOM file.

Appendix B – Printing your diagram

The information in this appendix is “value added” to the ged2dot application that you installed.

The author hopes you can find it useful in case your diagram is extremely large and it needs to be printed over several A4 pages. Of course if you want to print a professional poster you can send your generated image file to a printing company. You can find many online.

The author follows this procedure:

- Create a PNG file
- Launch application PosteRazor
- set margins to 0
- leave some overlapping margin (0.5cm) on bottom right of each page so it's easier to cut with scissor even inside that 0.5 cm strip and then overlap
- don't use the number of pages, instead use the scale % and adjust it with the mouse wheel to the desired number of pages
- print to PDF
    - orientation: Landscape
    - untick Auto Rotate
    - Scale to fit, Print Entire Image