

Outpost Address Book App

Introduction

Outpost utilizes an Address Book which is accessed by selecting the To: button and selecting a virtual address. In Outpost one can create and edit addresses so that a virtual address translate to one or more real addresses. However, one can only view eight virtual addresses at a time (scrolling down to view more) and must select an address to see what the actual addresses are.

The app may be started independently with or without Outpost or if one use PreOutpost to setup several profiles, preOutpost starts the Outpost Address Book App and Outpost at the same time. When Outpost is closed, the Outpost Address Book App is also closed. I find using a quarter of the screen for this app allows me to see the useful addresses while operating.

This app provides a way to view more addresses and to also see the actual addresses for each virtual address displayed. While it provides a way to create, edit and delete address records it only provides one line per virtual address/actual addresses on the main window. In addition one can copy the virtual and actual addresses to the clipboard for one of the highlighted lines.

Documentation for outpost keeps changing. So this app includes five pdf files:

- SCCo-packet-freqs
- SCCo_RACES_Rec_Form_Routing
- SCCo_Std_Fmt_Pkt_Subj_Line
- SCCo_Std_Packet_Check-In-Out
- XSC_RACES_Routing_Slip_Fillable

They may be viewed by selecting the particular item in a drop down list on the toolbar. The local pdf reader is sent the file selected. This requires the app know where the local pdf reader is located (its path) and if the pdf files change a way to know the path to the files.

There are commands to find a suitable pdf reader and another to identify the pdf file in the Program/PreOutpost directory.

The last feature is the best: There is a command to place the following string in the clipboard: "*** This is drill traffic ***". Of course this is only useful during the weekly check-ins.

Outpost Address Book Operations

Main Window

The main window has several components:

- A Menu Bar
- A Tool Bar
- A Heading for the List of Addresses
- A List Box (with optional vertical scroll bar)
- Status Bar at the bottom Left hand side of Main Window

The main window will remember where it was last located on the screen and it may be moved by grabbing the Window's Title Bar and dragging. Furthermore it will remember the width and height of the window. The width and height may be changed by grabbing any of the edges and dragging.

The Status Bar, when it is useful, will show something about the current command.

Main Window ToolBar Operations

Most of the operations may be invoked from the toolbar. There is a menu too which includes this help file.



Create a New Address

Opens the Address Form dialog box set up to input a new Outpost Address. The dialog box is discussed in detail below. But as a new address, one cannot input a Virtual Name (labelled "Name") which is the same as an existing address. If one needs to change an existing address use the Edit command. Note the Delete Button is disabled when inputting a new address.



Edit Address

Opens the Address Form dialog box with the address data that is high lighted set up to edit the address details. The dialog box is discussed in detail below. Please note that the Virtual Name (labelled "Name") may be changed but the file containing the original named address will be deleted and another file created. If the name is not changed then the details changed will be written to the file either when "Save All" or "Exit" commands is selected.



Refresh

Att this time this command is not documented.

Packet Docs



Packet Docs

Click anywhere in this button/drop down list and a drop down list with five documents

listed:

- Packet Frequencies
- Form Routing
- Packet Subject Line
- Check In/Out
- Routing Slip

Selecting (Clicking) on one of the titles will cause the PDF reader of your choice to show the content of the pdf file. The PDF reader will be operating stand alone so the user will need to minimize or close it to recover the screen space it uses.



This is a drop down list of some seldom used commands:

- Find PDF Reader
- Find PDF Files
- Set Drill Traffic

Find PDF Reader opens a dialog box. There are several PDF readers in the world. The user must supply the executable name (or names separated by spaces) in the edit box of the dialog box and press the "Find Paths" button (or just hit the return key). After some time one or more paths to the executable name will appear in the list box.

The problem, I found, is that not all executables will accept a file name when started. So the next step is to test each executable by double clicking on each path in the list box. The Status Box at the bottom of the main window of the App will show the path when the test starts. If a file is opened in the PDF reader the test was a success. When the PDF reader is closed the Status Box will show "Testing Complete". If the Status Box shows "Testing Complete without a PDF reader opening the test has failed. Once a viable reader has been found selecting the button "PDF App Found" will store the path away for future use.

The "Find PDF Files" command attempts to find all the pdf files stored in the Program Directory. They do this by searching the pdf files that match specific patterns in their file names. The file names only need to contain the patterns, they do not need to exactly match the pattern. Here are the patterns:

- "packet-freqs"
- "Form_Routing"
- "Subj_Line"
- "Check-In"
- "Routing_Slip"

So the obvious caution is that before changing the files in the Program Directory be sure that the patterns exist in the file names.

The last option is to "Set Drill Traffic". It only puts the string "**** This is drill traffic ****" into the clipboard making it available for pasting into another document or App.



Save All Modified Addresses

This command saves the modified files, delete the files marked for deletion and creates new files when they have been created in the App. It does nothing with address that have not been modified, created or deleted.

About

Displays the About Box.

Exit

If any addresses have been modified, created or deleted a dialog box will appear asking if the address should be saved. The save operation is the same as the "Save All Modified Addresses" command. Then the application exits.

Main Window High Lighted line Right Mouse Button Menu and Hot Keys

The List Box on the Main Window contains lines which show each Virtual Address and Actual Address for each Address Record in Outpost. Using the Left Mouse Button to high light an Address represented by a line. Then there are four commands that may be executed by selecting the command on a Right Mouse button popup menu. The four commands may also be executed by using the corresponding Control + key (a hot key). Here are the four commands given in the Right Mouse popup menu:

- Copy Virtual Address Ctrl+B
- Copy Organization Ctrl+O
- Copy Actual Addr Ctrl+C
- Edit Address Ctrl+E

Address Detail Dialog Box

There are several ways this dialog box is invoked. It allows one to create a new address, edit an existing address or delete an existing address. However, all the operations performed in this dialog box only change data within the App until either the "Save All" or "Exit" commands in the App are executed. Exiting the App via the 'X' in the upper right hand corner will cause all the changes to be forgotten.

File Menu

Save All

Performs the save all modified addresses command as detailed above.

Exit

Performs the conditional save all command then exits

Options Menu

Includes the same commands as the Options drop down command list on the toolbar.

Help

Introduction

Starts the help app with the Introduction page.

About OPAddrBk...

Show the About Dialog box as described above.