MetadataMagic

The essential tool for migrating solutions in older versions of FileMaker

MetadataMagic reads the metadata (info about the layouts, fields, scripts, value lists, relationships, etc.) directly out of FileMaker FP3 or FP5 files and populates it into an easy to use FileMaker database. It can process an unlimited number of files and you can navigate through your interrelated metadata with unlimited drill-down and go back capability. MetadataMagic not only extracts and displays your file references, it lets you fix them too with the File Reference Fixer!

FILEMAKER COMPATIBILITY:

MetadataMagic is fully compatible with FileMaker Pro 5–6.

MetadataMagic is designed to process FileMaker .FP3 and .FP5 files.

MetadataMagic does not process .FP7, .FMP12, or .FMP14 files.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

MAC: MetadataMagic works with any Mac OS that FileMaker Pro 5 or 6 runs on (up to OS 10.6).

WIN: MetadataMagic works with any Windows OS that FileMaker Pro 5 or 6 runs on (Windows 98, 2000, XP, Windows 7, Windows 8). We recommend using Windows XP SP2 or SP3. Please note, Windows 10 and beyond are not supported by either FileMaker Pro 6 or MetadataMagic.

DEMO:

You can download MetadataMagic and use it in demo mode, which is functional for processing 3 files at a time. Purchase of a license key will make the product fully-functional.

Features

FileMaker Solution Migration (to migrate to current versions of FileMaker)

• Conversion Issues Report – Find all the instances of known conversion issues in your FileMaker solution.
• Conversion Log Analysis Tool – Efficiently analyze the conversion log for errors. A license for this tool is included.
• Includes the "Conversion Issues Database" – a searchable reference based on the "FM 7 Converting Databases" document published by FileMaker, Inc.

File Reference Fixer

• Set file references to "relative only" or to a specified IP address or host name
• Consolidate multiple file references (so that only one remains in use per external file)
• Clear unused file references from all files in your solution
• Selectively modify individual file references, or many at once!

Information Included

• File references: Mac & Win full path, relative path, network path, "relative only"
• Relationships: sort specification, including fields and value lists used
• Layouts: part definitions, including subsummary when sorted by field
• Layout items: text blocks, graphics, and buttons, including coordinates
• File statistics: times not closed properly, times recovered
• Groups: see Read/Write, Read-Only, and Access Denied for fields and layouts

Features

• Use with FMP 5.0, 5.5, or 6 (does not require FileMaker Developer)
• Does not require AppleScript, Print2Pict, or other third party utilities
• Compiled C/C++ plug-in makes processing fast
• No 50-file limit (therefore no time-consuming workarounds to process solutions with hundreds of files)
• Supports new FMP 6 script steps
• Processes .FP3 solutions without conversion
• Can run in the background
• Most complete information of any developer tool, full cross-reference links between: layouts, layout items, fields, scripts, value lists, relationships, passwords, groups, file references
• Smooth navigation of resultant data via unlimited drill-down and go back
• Unrestricted searching of data
• Comprehensive error report, linked to original items
• Unlocked FMP files (with Master Access option)

Price List

Pricing is based on the numbers of files which can be concurrently processed.

There are extensive options which may be added to a primary MetadataMagic license; *please see details of options on right.*

These options include: Cross Platform to allow you to use MetadataMagic on both Mac and Windows; Master Access to the files, enabling you to build your own analysis views; a Redistribution license to entitle you to redistribute the MetadataMagic database files containing the metadata about your solution.

You can also expand the number of users and the number of files that may be concurrently processed.

10 files at once, Mac – $199.95
10 files at once, Win – $199.95
20 files at once, Mac – $299.95
20 files at once, Win – $299.95
40 files at once, Mac – $399.95
40 files at once, Win – $399.95
60 files at once, Mac – $499.95
60 files at once, Win – $499.95
100 files at once, Mac – $599.95
100 files at once, Win – $599.95
Unlimited files at once, Mac – $699.95
Unlimited files at once, Win – $699.95

Cross Platform – an additional $99.95

Increase File Limit (From 10 to 20) – $150.00
Increase File Limit (From 10 to 40) – $250.00
Increase File Limit (From 20 to 40) – $150.00
Increase File Limit (From 10 to 60) – $350.00
Increase File Limit (From 20 to 60) – $250.00
Increase File Limit (From 40 to 60) – $150.00
Increase File Limit (From 10 to 100) – $450.00
Increase File Limit (From 20 to 100) – $350.00
Increase File Limit (From 40 to 100) – $250.00
Increase File Limit (From 60 to 100) – $150.00
Increase File Limit (From 10 to Unlimited) – $550.00
Increase File Limit (From 20 to Unlimited) – $450.00
Increase File Limit (From 40 to Unlimited) – $350.00
Increase File Limit (From 60 to Unlimited) – $250.00
Increase File Limit (From 100 to Unlimited) – $150.00

Master Access – an additional $159.95

Redistribution – an additional $299.95

Service License (per FTE FileMaker developer) – an additional $450.00

Additional User – $see instructions

Upgrade* to newest version (for owners of older ver w/5 or 10 file license) – $59.95
Upgrade* to newest version (for owners of older ver w/20 file license) – $89.95
Upgrade* to newest version (for owners of older ver w/40 file license) – $119.95
Upgrade* to newest version (for owners of older ver w/60 file license) – $139.95
Upgrade* to newest version (for owners of older ver w/100 file license) – $165.95
Upgrade* to newest version (for owners of older ver w/unlimited file license) – $189.95
Upgrade* to newest version (for owners of older ver w/Master Access license) – $49.95
Upgrade* to newest version (for owners of older ver w/cross platform license) – $39.95

Upgrades are for owners of an earlier version of MetadataMagic. If you currently own a cross-platform or master access license and you wish to upgrade your MetadataMagic license, be sure to appropriately select a master access and/or cross-platform upgrade in addition to the "file license" upgrade.

Options

Cross Platform License Option
This will allow you to install Metadata-Magic on one Mac and one Windows computer.

Increasing Your File Limit
Your MetadataMagic license may be increased from one "license level" to another at any time. The price is based on the cost difference between the two license levels, plus $50.

Master Access Option
This option allows full programmatic access to the interface files, offering the ability to fully customize reports by customizing layouts, creating custom fields, etc.

Redistribution License
Allows you to redistribute the FileMaker Pro database files that are a part of Metadata-Magic, with your solution which you own and which you license directly to the end-customer. Further details are provided in the license agreement document.

Service License
For developers who wish to perform "File Reference Fixing" as a service, this license option permits developers to use File Reference Fixer and the Conversion Issue Reporting Tool in cases where they are not the owner or principal developer of the solution.

Additional Users
You may add additional users to your license at any time. The cost per additional user is equal to 20% of the value of your MetadataMagic package. If you add options such as cross-platform or master access later, their cost will be incremented proportionally based on the number of additional users. For example, if you purchase a 10 file license for $199.95, and an additional user license for $39.99, and later add the cross-platform option, the cost for the cross-platform option will be $99.95 + 20%, or $119.95.

FAQ

Is MetadataMagic compatible with current versions of FileMaker Pro?

No. Development of MetadataMagic ended in 2004. The product is intended for developers dealing with older FileMaker solutions on older systems – and we know there are many of you out there, because it remains a popular product to this day!

You may want to take a look at Base Elements by Goya Ltd.

When I buy MetadataMagic, can my license key be registered to the company I work at, rather than to myself?

No. MetadataMagic is a single-user product. We do not issue license keys for this product in the name of a group or organization; we issue licenses in the name of an individual only. For workplace situations in which several people need to access MetadataMagic we offer a substantial discount for each additional user you may wish to add to your license. The cost per additional user is 20% of the value of your MetadataMagic package. See the footnotes of the Price List page for details.

We have a number of users who access FileMaker via a server. Can MetadataMagic run on the server?

No. MetadataMagic runs on a local computer, where it can process local files (such as a copy of a recent backup of the server files). The users of your solution probably have no need to use MetadataMagic; typically it is only the developer that will use it.

I notice the pricing is according to the number of files. Is it possible to only examine a few files at a time or must they all be done simultaneously? Say we have 60 files, do we really need a 60 file license?

The number of files purchased is the maximum number to be concurrently processed. Usually, those are all of the inter-related files in one single solution.

If you process fewer files (by excluding some related files), you will observe a number of errors of the type "related file is missing". This might not be a serious problem when investigating a particular issue in a well-known solution, but in the case where you are trying to learn the details of the solution, this is likely to be a substantial hindrance. You can explore this effect by using the free demo, which is limited to processing 3 files at a time.

That said, it is fairly common to have multiple independent solutions on one FileMaker Server — e.g. 30 related files in an accounting solution, 20 related files in a manufacturing solution, and 10 miscellaneous independent files. As long as those solutions are not inter-related then you could use a 40 file license (a 40 file license being capable of processing the largest solution in the above example) and process the various sets of files separately.

When I try to register MetadataMagic on my Mac, I get this error message:"Registered, but could not save to Registration.key file due to error: -5000 MetadataMagic_PI 2.0.3".

"Error -5000" indicates a Mac OS X privilege violation. To store the registration data, a file is created in the "FileMaker Extensions" folder in the FileMaker application folder (the same place you installed the MetadataMagic plug-in). If the Mac OS X account you are using does not have privileges to write to this folder, the file cannot be created due to the privilege violation, so the registration data is not saved. This might happen if FileMaker Pro was installed using a different account than the one you are using. To solve this problem you could: a) Change the privileges for the "FileMaker Extensions" folder to allow read-write access for your account; or b) Log-in with the same account that owns the FileMaker Extensions folder, and register MetadataMagic. After the registration data is saved successfully once, the file does not need to be written again, so you can revert your account/privileges if you wish.

Can I process another set of files without loosing the browsable issues database from the first? Can I switch back and forth easily between multiple projects?

It is common that a developer wants to retain the information in MetadataMagic due to having multiple solutions or versions of a solution.

The simplest method of doing so is to put the MetadataMagic folder into a new folder named for its contents, e.g. "MyDatabase_2012_MDM", then unzip a fresh copy of MetadataMagic in a different folder for processing a different solution.

The files of MetadataMagic use relative references, so there is no problem having many copies of MetadataMagic on one computer. To switch back and forth, close one copy of MetadataMagic and open another.

If you use the same copy of the FileMaker Pro application, you do not need to go through the install/register procedure again, you can simply start using the fresh copy.

You can have more than one copy of MetadataMagic open concurrently by using multiple versions/copies of the FileMaker Pro application. You will need to perform the install/register procedure one time for each copy of the application.

Miscellaneous Information

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SUPPORT

Version 2.0.3J is a variant for Japanese solutions. This requires the Japanese version of FileMaker Pro, and uses the Osaka font to display metadata.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE LOCALIZED STRINGS

Note: You must use the standard (english) strings file to use the Conversion Issue Report.

German: The German localized text strings file has been updated for compatibility with MetadataMagic 2.0.3. This update is available using the download link.

Other: Localized strings will not change the user interface of MetadataMagic, but will show the metadata (script steps, formulas, etc.) in another language. If you are interested in volunteering to localize the strings to another language, please write to us (credit for the localization effort is provided in the read-me that accompanies the localized strings file).