

RESOURCE NOTES

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Creating and Saving Query Files in the Wild Horse and Burro (HB) System

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Background

The Bureau of Land Management's HB system has been hosted on a Unix platform since January 1998. The query software is Aspen/2 Data Manager, a command line tool that allows retrieval of information from a flat file created periodically from an Informix relational database.

Resource program specialists often need to customize queries to address specific data needs and desired output formats. It is handy to be able to create and store these queries as files in the user's own directory, so they may be called and reused whenever necessary. Following is a method to do this.

Discussion

At the prompt indicating that you are on the production MUP

in Denver (SC0123), call the **vi editor** and enter the name of a file in which you want to save the commands. For demonstration purposes, we will use "jackson" as the filename to store a command in rstark's directory that will query about adopters who reside in the states administered by the Jackson field office:

```
sc0123:/u/rstark $ vi jackson
```

The screen will display with a tilde symbol (~) at the left edge of each line, except for the bottom line, which displays: **"jackson" [New file]**.

Type in the letter **"i"** to enter the input mode; the machine displays the words **"INPUT MODE"** on the bottom line and sets the cursor on the first line: (see illustration below).

You can now type in commands that can be called from the Aspen/2 command line. For this example, we will enter commands that will produce an Aspen result consisting of all records in the disposal database where the adopter resides within the Jackson District administrative area:

```
hm:e65=al;ar;fl;ga;ky;la;ms;nc;sc;tn;va
```

To save the file, first press the "Escape" key (**Esc**) to exit the input

mode, then enter **<shift>ZZ** to save the file. The machine responds with the message :

```
"jackson" [New file] 1 line, 40 characters
```

There is now a file in rstark's directory on the production MUP (sc0123) that contains this query. It can be called from the Aspen/2 prompt by using the **rx (read auxiliary input)** command:

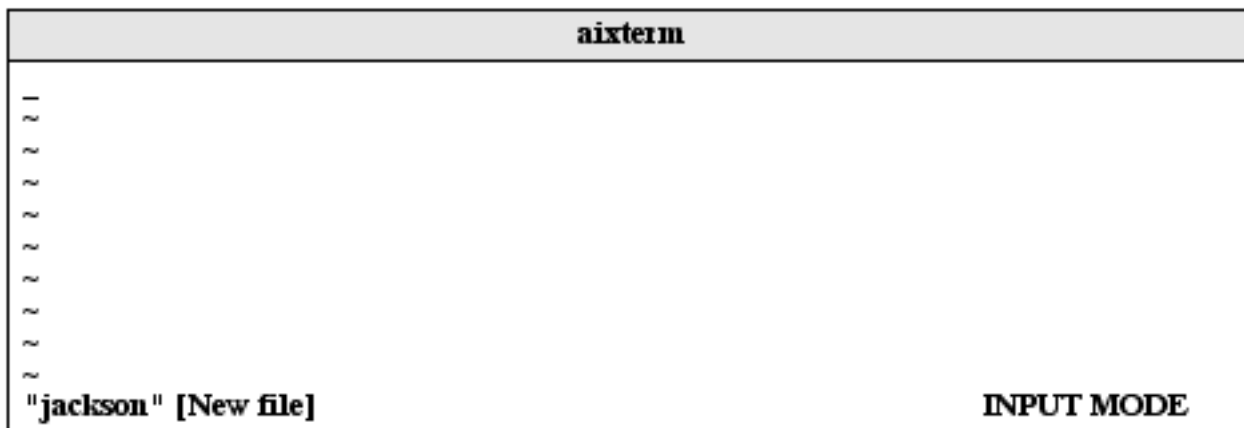
```
Enter Next Command: rx;jackson
```

The machine responds with:

```
Query Response: 34405 out of 202343  
WH&B Disposal Records, or 17.00%
```

a result that can be used as a starting point for further sort and print commands.

You can also save a series of commands that will be executed successively when called from Aspen, including initiating an auxiliary file (**ix**), saving selected records in it, and then terminating the file (**tx**). The following example would create a file called "arizona" containing adopter's last name, first name, home phone, and business phone where the adopter's state of residence is Arizona. Enter the visual editor as described above, move to input mode, and then type in the commands as follows, using the



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enter key at the end of each line to move to the next line:

```
ix;arizona
p;(e58;e59;e67;e68) for e65=az
tx
```

exit the editor by pressing **ESC** and save the file by typing in **<shift>ZZ**.

There will now be a file in your directory called "arizona" that can be called from Aspen/2 using the **rx** command:

Enter Next Command: **rx;arizona**

Another example could be used periodically in producing a facility inventory. The following commands would produce a file called "pvcinventory" listing animals in the Palomino Valley facility (NV53), sorted by necktag number and showing necktag number, freemark, signalment key, and preparation date:

```
ix;pvcinventory
hm;e40=nv53
p;(e27;e25;e29;e53) for r
tx
```

Be careful not to choose the same name for the output file as you use for the auxiliary file and to avoid spaces in filenames. Files with such names can be saved, but are not recognized by Unix.

There are a host of additional Unix commands useful in editing files. Your system administrator can refer you to the appropriate manuals. The following commands are handy to look at and manipulate files once they have been created. They can be entered at the Unix "\$" prompt or from Aspen/2, by prefixing them with the "execute (**ex**);" command:

- cat** displays the contents of a file (example: **cat arizona** displays the file "arizona").
- ls** lists all the files in the direc-

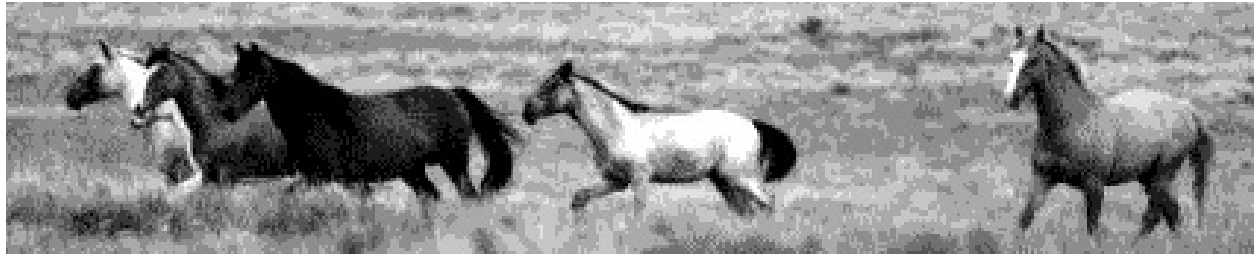
- ex;** tory you're in (example: **ls**). allows use of Unix commands from an Aspen/2 prompt (example: **ex;cat arizona**).
- rm** removes a file from the directory you're in (example: **rm arizona** removes the file "arizona" from the directory).

Conclusion

Creating and storing queries in this way is an efficient way to combine the query power of Aspen/2 and the editing capability of Unix.

Contact

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