

Create a Clip Art Catalog
WordPerfect Magazine
By Roger Gagon

When I was young, I collected everything imaginable – exotic stones and sea shells, rare foreign coins, matchbox cars and model airplanes. Now, I work with computers and have a new hobby – collecting computer clip art.

Having an enormous collection of clip art poses a problem. If I want to browse through my collection of clip art in search of a suitable image, I've got to flounder through my hard drive and look at each graphic one at a time. It would make more sense to print samples of the images and put them on display so they could be viewed more easily.

I finally devised a macro to create a printed catalog of all my clip art. The included CATALOG.WPM macro discussed below creates a graphics catalog with 30 graphics on each page (see Figure 1 below). If you have a large collection of clip art, you can use this macro to create a nicely formatted catalog of your own clip art.

Graphic Formats

The macro works with a total of 11 different graphic formats (see Figure 2 below). These other graphic formats are used by non-WordPerfect programs. A unique file extension is assigned to each different graphic format. You'll notice, for example, that all WordPerfect graphics have a file extension of ".WPG." Lotus 1-2-3 PIC graphics use an extension of ".PIC," and so on.

When you run the macro, it looks at the file extension of each file as it scans through a specified directory. If the file extension matches one of the graphics extensions listed in Figure 2, the macro adds the graphic to the catalog. If the file extension does not match one of the 11 extensions, the macro bypasses the file and moves to the next one.

Using the Macro

To use the macro, at a blank document screen press Macro (Alt-F10), type "catalog" and press (Enter). The macro displays the message "Enter path to graphic files:" and pauses for you to type a path. You can type a path to any directory that includes graphics. For example, if your graphics are in a directory on your hard drive, you may need to enter something like "c:\wp51\graphics."

If you're uncertain of the path to your graphics directory, press Setup (Shift-F1), (L) Location of Files. The path listed next to option 6 Graphic Files is your graphics directory.

After entering the path, the macro begins creating your graphics catalog. Depending on the number of graphics in the specified directory, the macro may take several minutes to complete the task. The macro keeps you informed of its progress by displaying the name of the graphic that has just been added to the catalog in the lower left corner of your screen.

After all of the graphics have been added to the catalog, the macro takes you into View Document, displays the first page of the catalog and quits. At this point, you can take a few minutes to review the file in View Document for possible errors before printing it. Use (Page Down) to scroll from page to page in View Document. Press Exit (F7) when you've finished viewing the file.

Printing the Catalog

You'll want to consider a few things before printing the catalog. First, if you have access to several different printers, determine which of the available printers will give you the best output.

The next step is to select a font. I'd recommend something simple and easy to read, such as Times Roman or Helvetica. Select the font by pressing Format (Shift-F8), (D) Document, (F) Initial Base Font. Highlight a 12-point (or 10-cpi) font and press (S) Select. If you're using scalable fonts, type 12 for the point size and press (Enter). Press Exit (F7) to return to the document screen.

You're now ready to print the file. You may want to consider using a special paper for the final output; perhaps a heavy, white bond paper. Since you'll want the final output to look as nice as possible, I'd recommend setting the graphics quality option to High. You can do this by pressing Print (Shift-F7), (G) Graphics Quality and (H) High. With graphics quality set to High, the catalog may take considerably longer to print, but the printed graphics will look much nicer. Press (F) Full Document to begin printing the catalog.

Note: You can also "print" a catalog to a PDF file, which may take far less time and save lots of paper and ink.

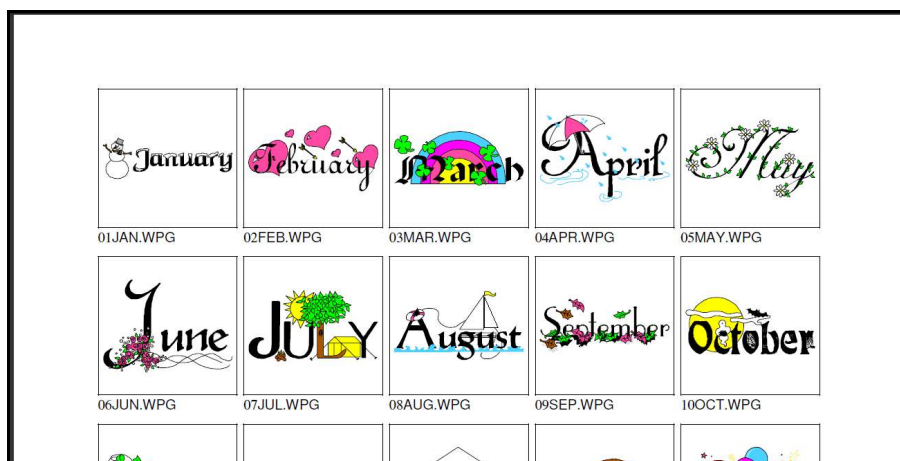


Figure 1

