

Value List Ecosystem

an evolution

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Acknowledgements

- Kevin Frank*
- John Ahn
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- Kristy Lapidus
- Matthew Leering
- Jared Hague
- Robert Samnegård



“Value lists are subtle and multifaceted.”

– Kevin Frank 2012



Diverse Ecosystem

- Native FileMaker
- Developer Innovations

The Ultimate VL

(would have)

- Coding
- Ordering
- Dynamic Values
- Status Flag
- Data Capture Modalities
- User Control

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Coding

FileMaker

John Ahn 2012

Matthew Leering 2013

Ordering

Marcelo Piñeyro 2012

Dynamic Values

Kevin Frank 2012, 2016, 2018

John Ahn 2012

Alan Bruce, 2013

Jeremy Bante 2013

Jared Hague 2015

Robert Samnegård 2017

Status Flag

Kristy Lapidus 2013

Data Capture Modalities

- Pop-up Menu
- Drop-down List
- Radio Button and Checkbox

User Control

Degrees of Control

A Simple Method

Coded
Ordered
Dynamic Values
Status Flag
Data Capture Modalities
User Control*

Another Method for Special Cases Only

Coded
Ordered
Dynamic Values
Status Flag
Data Capture Modalities
User Control

The Ultimate VL

(would have)

- Coding
- Ordering
- Dynamic Values
- Status Flag
- Data Capture Modalities*
- User Control*
- Usable under any scenario

Appendix: value list anthology

1. Dwindling Value Lists pt1: Kevin Frank 2012
<https://filemakerhacks.com/2012/06/10/dwindling-value-lists-2/>
making a selection removes that value from the value list (used in a portal)
Difficulty: Medium
2. Dwindling Value Lists pt2 (checkboxes): Michael Rochard, 2012
<https://filemakerhacks.com/2012/06/10/dwindling-value-lists-part-2/>
Same as above, but for a series of checkbox fields.
3. Conditional VLs: John Ahn 2012
<https://filemakerhacks.com/2012/07/19/fm-12-executesql-unconference-session/>
Hierarchical lists. select top level and lower level is populated
Difficulty: Medium. Script triggers, SQL in script parameters

Appendix: value list anthology (cont.)

4. Magic VLs: Andries Heylen, 2012 with acknowledgements to John Ahn and Kevin Frank
<https://filemakerhacks.com/2012/07/25/magic-value-lists/>
dynamic VLs based on global variables
User defined value lists. SQL method. checkboxes require separate value lists. somewhat complicated to set up: relationship, script trigger, conditional formatting formula, custom function. No support yet for coded lists
5. More fun with VLs: John Ahn 2012, with acknowledgment to Nick Chapin
<https://filemakerhacks.com/2012/08/13/more-fun-with-value-lists-part-1/>
Coded lists. dynamic values.
Difficulty: Medium. One relationship, script trigger, conditional formatting, ExecuteSQL function call on script trigger parameter. Different trigger details for each field instance on layout.

Appendix: value list anthology (cont.)

6. Thinking about VLs part 2: Kevin Frank 2012
<https://filemakerhacks.com/2012/11/07/thinking-about-value-lists-part-2/>
Adds the idea of “active” values (using simple conditional VL technique). This is just a wise feature to include whenever using coded lists. Values can be hidden when not active.
7. Sorting VLs, Marcelo Piñeyro 2012
<https://www.soliantconsulting.com/blog/filemaker-char-function>
Key innovation: byte order marks (BOM). must use coded list or else BOMs corrupt the list value

Appendix: value list anthology (cont.)

8. Virtual VL, Jeremy Bante 2013 with acknowledgment to Kevin Frank, John Ahn, Andries Heylen, and Marcelo Piñeyro
<http://www.modularfilemaker.org/module/virtual-value-list/>
VLs based on global variables and script triggers. Coded, Sorted, Dynamic. Flagged could be done. Adding coding along with other features would add complexity but could be done. User updated. Not user defined. except radios and checks. Difficulty: Hard. extra tables, custom functions, script triggers, SQL in script parameters.
9. Unstored Calls. Alan Bruce 2013
<https://coresolutions.ca/blogs/core-filemaker/creating-value-lists-with-unstored-calculations>
How to use an extra table occurrence to enable unstored calcs to work. Difficulty: easy

Appendix: value list anthology (cont.)

10. Fun With Sorts. Jonathan Fletcher 2013 with acknowledgement to Ugo Di Luca, and Agnès Barouh
<https://filemakerhacks.com/2013/11/22/its-sorta-a-value-list-thing/>
More sorting options. building on Marcelo Piñeyro's work
Difficulty: easy to medium depending on which technique.
11. Include only Active Values. Kristy Lapidus 2013.
<https://www.soliantconsulting.com/blog/context-independent-value-list-active-records>
Simple technique that all coded value lists should use.
Difficulty: easy. 1 extra field in addition to the calculated label field
12. Multilingual VLs. Matthew Leering 2013 with acknowledgement to Jeremy Bante
<http://www.modularfilemaker.org/module/multilingual-valuelists/>
Virtual lists. coded lists
Difficulty: medium. scripts, triggers, virtual list tables, new table for each VL, new VL for each VL

Appendix: value list anthology (cont.)

13. Search Picker in VL. Jared Hague 2015.

<http://www.modularfilemaker.org/module/ma-search-picker/>

Pop over, web viewer, SQL

Difficulty: Medium. Problematic because of callback misdirecting to FM16

14. Sorting by date. Kevin Frank 2016

<https://filemakerhacks.com/2016/10/25/modal-popovers-and-magic-date-value-lists/>

Virtual value list with date fields to allow sorting by date

Difficulty: Easy after you already are using virtual value lists

15. Custom, Field Based VLs. Kevin Frank 2018

<https://filemakerhacks.com/2018/03/12/custom-field-based-value-lists/>

Difficulty: Medium. Needs virtual table, SQL (optional), Let statement inside “Hide Object When” parameter. checkboxes and radio buttons won’t work.

Appendix: other downloads

<http://www.dotfmp.com/files>