• CHM physical artifact categories: Revision proposal 9/10/03

- <u>Note</u>: This document must be displayed and printed in "outline" view.
- You can double-click on the "+ signs to expand and contract the tree

• Guidelines used to establish the categories

- The guiding principle is to create a useful tool for searching and tabulating the collection, not to create either a complete taxonomy of computing systems or a method for arranging the object in the warehouses.
- The tree is at most 3 levels deep, and is mostly 2 levels deep.
- The list at each level has no more than 12 categories.
- Every list ends with an "other" category for objects not otherwise covered.
- Any category which has very few such objects is a candidate to be removed, with those few objects moved into "other" instead.
- Conversely, when the "other" category has many objects, we should consider adding additional named categories.
- Some compound categories have been removed for simplification. A "mini-supercomputer" is thus a kind of supercomputer, and a "super-minicomputer" is a kind of minicomputer.
- Every category in the existing FileMaker list has a clear mapping into the new category list. The table below contains the old-to-new correspondences that can be used to automatically convert the database.
- Proper names specific to standards or products were avoided (eg Token Ring, flexowriter, Unibus) because they change too quickly over the decades.
- Categories are consistently in the singular case, hence "ephemeron".
- Nothing is capitalized except acronyms (eg CRT)
- Words without content (eg "device") have been removed in the interest of brevity, despite the grammatical awkwardness resulting from the nounification of adjectives
- This does not cover archival material: documents, books, photos, films, etc.
- The "software" category has not yet been refined. We don't know if it should be divided by medium (cards, tape, disk), by content (compiler, game), by representation (source code, executable), or by something else.
- The resulting simplification is a reduction from 146 categories to 93.

Guidelines for using the categories

- When an object seems to fit in more than one category, use the most specific. For example, an industrial robot is "robot", not "special purpose digital computer: industrial".
- Component parts of a larger device are classified with that device. Example: a golf ball print head is under "I/O: printer".

• Example tough cases

- The ENIGMA is a "pre-computer: cryptographic". So is Colossus, the Bombe, and decoder rings
- The IBM 604 is "pre-computer: calculator: electrical".
- ENIAC could either be "calculator: electronic" or "digital computer: mainframe", depending on your definition of a computer. I'd choose the latter because of public perception even though it wasn't a stored-program device.
- The Kitchen Computer is a "fixed-application digital computer: home appliance"
- Do you have other tough cases to test the taxonomy against?

| CHM physical artifact categories |
|------------------------------------|
| pre-computer |
| abacus / soroban |
| cryptographic |
| punched card |
| sector |
| slide rule |
| other |
| calculator |
| electromechanical |
| electronic |
| mechanical |
| programmable |
| other |
| analog computer |
| digital computer |
| supercomputer |
| mainframe |
| minicomputer |
| workstation |
| desktop |
| portable / luggable |
| laptop |
| handheld |
| development system |
| other |
| fixed-application digital computer |
| educational |

| entertainment |
|----------------------|
| home appliance |
| industrial |
| medical |
| military / aerospace |
| other |
| game |
| robot |
| I/O |
| analog interface |
| camera / video |
| console / panel |
| display |
| CRT |
| LCD |
| plasma |
| other |
| keyboard |
| paper tape |
| plotter |
| pointing |
| mouse |
| joystick |
| lightpen |
| tablet |
| other |
| printer |
| punched card |
| scanner |

| sound and speech |
|----------------------------|
| terminal / Teletype |
| other |
| memory |
| connector / plugboard |
| core |
| delay line |
| disk |
| drum |
| electrostatic |
| optical |
| semiconductor |
| tape |
| other |
| interconnect |
| backplane |
| I/O bus |
| network |
| component / hub |
| switch / router / firewall |
| modem |
| other |
| other |
| component |
| cabinet |
| cable / connector |
| circuit board / module |
| cooling |
| diode |

| IC . |
|------------------------|
| power supply / battery |
| relay |
| transistor |
| vacuum tube |
| other |
| software |
| test equipment |
| ephemeron |
| badge/button |
| clothing |
| mug / glass |
| pencil / pen |
| plaque / paperweight |
| poster |
| other |
| miscellaneous |
| carrying case |
| furniture |
| other |
| |
| |

docking station

Conversion table from old to new categories

| Analog computer Analog component Analog computer Analog component Analog computer Analog component Analog computer Analog component Analog computer Analog component Analog component Analog component Analog computer Analog c | OLD CATEGORY | NEW CATEGORY | COMMENT |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
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| Digital differential analyzer analog computer Docking Port component : docking station Ephemera ephemeron : other Ephemera: Textile ephemeron: clothing Links & switches: backplane interconnect : backplane Links & switches: bus interconnect : I/O bus Links & switches: connector component : cable / connector Links & switches: Unibus interconnect : I/O bus Links & switches: multiplexer interconnect : other Links & switches: cable component : cable /connector Links & switches: cable interconnect : network : component / hub | | | some might be more specific |
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| Ephemera: Textile ephemeron: clothing Links & switches: backplane interconnect: backplane Links & switches: bus interconnect: I/O bus Links & switches: connector component: cable / connector Links & switches: Unibus interconnect: I/O bus Links & switches: multiplexer interconnect: other Links & switches: cable component: cable /connector Links & switches: cable interconnect: network: component / hub | | <u> </u> | |
| Ephemera: Textile ephemeron: clothing Links & switches: backplane interconnect: backplane Links & switches: bus interconnect: I/O bus Links & switches: connector component: cable / connector Links & switches: Unibus interconnect: I/O bus Links & switches: multiplexer interconnect: other Links & switches: cable component: cable /connector Links & switches: Ethernet device interconnect: network: component / hub | | | |
| Links & switches: backplane Links & switches: bus Links & switches: connector Links & switches: Unibus Links & switches: unibus Links & switches: multiplexer Links & switches: cable Links & switches: Ethernet device Links & switches: Ethernet device | | * | |
| Links & switches: bus interconnect : I/O bus Links & switches: connector component : cable / connector Links & switches: Unibus interconnect : I/O bus Links & switches: multiplexer interconnect : other Links & switches: cable component : cable /connector Links & switches: Ethernet device interconnect : network : component / hub | | ı Ü | |
| Links & switches: connector Links & switches: Unibus Links & switches: multiplexer Links & switches: cable Links & switches: cable Links & switches: cable Links & switches: Ethernet device Links & switches: Ethernet device | | | |
| Links & switches: Unibus interconnect : I/O bus Links & switches: multiplexer interconnect : other Links & switches: cable component : cable /connector Links & switches: Ethernet device interconnect : network : component / hub | | | |
| Links & switches: multiplexer interconnect: other Links & switches: cable component: cable /connector Links & switches: Ethernet device interconnect: network: component / hub | | | |
| Links & switches: cable component : cable /connector Links & switches: Ethernet device interconnect : network : component / hub | | | |
| Links & switches: Ethernet device interconnect : network : component / hub | • | | |
| <u> </u> | | | |
| Links & switches: Special purpose interconnect: other | Links & switches: Special purpose | interconnect: other | |

| Links & switches: Token Ring device | interconnect : network: component / hub | |
|---|--|-----------------------------|
| Links & switches: network device | interconnect : network : other | some might be more specific |
| Logic module | component : circuit board / module | |
| Mechanical device: special-purpose | calculator: mechanical | some might be other |
| Media: Special Case: See Comments | miscellaneous : other | what was this? |
| Memory: bubble | memory : other | |
| Memory: capacitor | memory: other | |
| Memory: CD-ROM | memory : disk | |
| Memory: core | memory : core | |
| Memory: data cell | memory : other | |
| Memory: delay line: acoustic | memory : delay line | |
| Memory: delay line: magnetostrictive | memory : delay line | |
| Memory: disk | memory: disk | |
| Memory: disk: floppy | memory: disk | |
| Memory: disk drive | memory: disk | |
| Memory: disk pack | memory : disk | |
| Memory: drum | memory : drum | |
| Memory: electron beam | memory: electrostatic | |
| Memory: electrostatic tube | memory: electrostatic | |
| Memory: magnetic film | memory : other | |
| Memory: magnetic tape | memory: tape | |
| Memory: magnetic tape drive | memory: tape | |
| Memory: magneto-optical | memory : optical | |
| Memory: optical | memory: optical | |
| Memory: paper tape | I/O : paper tape | |
| Memory: photo-digital store | memory: optical | |
| Memory: plasma cell | memory : other | |
| Memory: plated wire | memory : other | |
| Memory: punch card | I/O : punched card | |
| Memory: RAM | memory : semiconductor | some might be other |
| Memory: ROM | memory : semiconductor | some might be other |
| Memory: rope | memory : other | |
| Memory: semiconductor | memory : semiconductor | |
| Memory: sense amplifier | memory :other | |
| Memory: special-purpose | memory : other | |
| Memory: tape cartridge | memory: tape | |
| Memory: thin film | memory : other | |
| Memory: tunnel diode | memory: semiconductor | |
| Memory: Williams tube | memory: electrostatic | |
| Memory: woven plated wire | memory : other | |
| Microprocessor: | component : IC | |
| Microprocessor-based device: | fixed-application digital computer : other | some might be more specific |
| Microprocessor-based game: | game | |
| Microprocessor-based toy: | fixed-application digital computer : entertainment | |
| Mixed Lot (see Description field) | miscellaneous : other | some might be more specific |
| Robot: | fixed-application digital computer : robot | |
| Slide rule: circular | pre-computer : slide rule | |
| Slide rule: cylindrical | pre-computer : slide rule | |
| Slide rule: linear | pre-computer : slide rule | |
| Software | software | |
| Spare Parts | component : other | |
| Special furniture | miscellaneous : furniture | |
| Test Equipment | test equipment | |
| Transducer: analog-to-digital converter | I/O : analog interface | |
| Transducer: digital-to-analog converter | I/O : analog interface | |
| Transducer: cathode ray tube | I/O : display : CRT | |

| Transducer: Charge Coupled Device (CCD) | memory : semiconductor | or memory: other |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Transducer: Console | I/O : console / panel | |
| Transducer: control panel | I/O : console / panel | |
| Transducer: digitizing tablet | I/O : pointing : tablet | |
| Transducer: flexowriter | I/O : terminal / teletype | |
| Transducer: Front Panel | I/O : console / panel | |
| Transducer: Head Disk Assembly | memory: disk | |
| (HDA) | indianally values | |
| Transducer: plotter | I/O : plotter | |
| Transducer: graphics terminal | I/O : display : CRT | |
| Transducer: keyboard | I/O : keyboard | |
| Transducer: light pen | I/O : pointing : lightpen | |
| Transducer: light gun | I/O : pointing : lightpen | |
| Transducer: MODEM | interconnect : network : modem | |
| Transducer: mouse | I/O : pointing : mouse | |
| Transducer: oscilloscope | test equipment | |
| Transducer: plasma display | I/O : display : plasma | |
| Transducer: power supply | component : power supply / battery | |
| Transducer: printer | I/O : printer | |
| Transducer: print head: daisy wheel | I/O : printer | |
| Transducer: print head: dot matrix | I/O : printer | |
| Transducer: print head: golf ball | I/O : printer | |
| Transducer: print head: inkjet | I/O : printer | |
| Transducer: print head: laser engine | I/O : printer | |
| Transducer: print head: chain | I/O : printer | |
| Transducer: punch card punch | I/O: punched card | |
| Transducer: punch card reader | I/O: punched card | |
| Transducer: paper tape reader | I/O : paper tape | |
| Transducer: special-purpose | I/O: other | some might be more specific |
| Transducer: terminal: portable | I/O : terminal / teletype | |
| Transducer: unit record equipment | I/O: punched card | |
| Transducer: video terminal | I/O : display : CRT | |
| Transducer: Teletype | I/O : terminal / teletype | |
| Transducer: test equipment | test equipment | |
| Transducer: terminal | I/O: terminal / teletype | |
| Transducer: monitor | I/O : display : CRT | |
| Typewriter | pre-computer : other | |
| Unknown | miscellaneous : other | |
| Video game | game | |