

HomePhone V.24.04

Today, when nearly everyone has their mobile phone, there are people, mostly older people, who are using a land line exclusively. Even if they have a cell phone, they are not able to store their contacts. Their children or grandchildren, when they come to visit, may find notes with hand-written phone numbers by the telephone.

Children or grandchildren know how to use the computers, and should not be an issue to input all necessary contacts into a PC and print on a single A4 paper. Such a list may become handy when the battery in the cell phone dies or the land line has a electrical blackout.

I myself have such a list for many years and it currently contains 54 contacts. I use two columns on my list. This format is practical, but each update is tedious. Let's look at an example :

Aznavour Charles
Brahms Fridrich
Crocodile Dandy
Dickens Charles

Such an arrangement is enough for about 40 contacts. People are usually reading from left to right and from top to bottom. However, it is fastest to read the list in an alphabetical order from top to bottom. In the following list, editing is possible, but impractical :

Aznavour Charles Brahms Fridrich
Crocodile Dandy Dickens Charles

Reading of this list, as in the book, is from left to right and top to bottom. A better solution is to have two columns. For example, the left one would contain contacts from A to K and right one from L to Z. People could read columns from top to bottom. Our brief example would look like this :

Aznavour Charles Crocodile Dandy
Brahms Fridrich Dickens Charles

Of course it could be done manually for 54 contacts, as two columns of 27 contacts. It might appear appealing to the user (a senior), but a problem could occur when you need to add or delete a contact. Try to imagine how you would add the name of **Bach Sebastian** into the left column, or **Dante Alighieri** into the right column, if each column may only have 27 contacts. Since I'm too tired to do this manually, for this purpose, I made this program.

1. Instalation

The program is portable, not installed. May as well be on a USB drive. The user may create a directory on disk and not necessarily just on the C drive. The directory name is optional, for a easy recognition you may choose HomePhone.

There is a need to save files from the package **HomePhone.zip**. Two important files :

- HomePhone.exe
- HomePhone.txt

HomePhone.exe is the program. It was tested in Windows 10,11,8,7 and Windows XP. If you run it in other operating systems, please write to the author.

2. Input data

The input data should be entered by the **Notepad**. The file name must be **HomePhone.txt**. Such a file is attached to the program, you can modify it.

The order of contacts is not important, the program sorts them itself. It is important to enter a contact in a single line form. Remember to use the "=" sign between name and telephone number as follows :

Kaufman John = +421 903 123 456

It also works without the spaces

Kaufman John=+421 903 123 456

It depends on you what format of the numbers you will choose, but it should be uniformed. You do not need to write dozens of contacts at first. When you are trying the program, start with about 10 contacts.

Some numbers that you use often should be highlighted somehow. For this purpose, use the character "*" as a separator between the name and the number, i.e. an asterisk instead of an equal sign. These names will be printed in bold, but their phone numbers in normal font.

3. Quick start and quick success

Save the file **HomePhone.txt** to the directory where your program resides. Then you can just double-click the program HomePhone.exe.

This reads your file HomePhone.txt and the program will determine the number of contacts per column. The sorted contacts write then to the output file **HomePhone.html**. When you double clicks this file your internet browser will open this file and from there you can print.

4. Accent marks

The accent marks are used in my country. You can skip over this part for English language.

The program reads contacts with accent marks from file HomePhone.txt, sorts them, and then writes them to the html file.

Here are two practical examples.

Unsorted contacts file HomePhone.txt :

Churchil Winston=+421 999 111 111
Castro Fidel=+421 999 222 222
Aznavour Charles=+421 999 333 333
Einstein Albert=+421 999 444 444
Goodman Benny=+421 999 555 555
Gorkij Maxim=+421 999 666 666
Stofko Branislav= +421 903 123 456
Truman Harry=+421 903 777 777
Bécaud Gilbert=+421 999 888 888

The resulting list :

Aznavour Charles	+421 999 333 333	Goodman Benny	+421 999 555 555
Bécaud Gilbert	+421 999 888 888	Gorkij Maxim	+421 999 666 666
Castro Fidel	+421 999 222 222	Stofko Branislav	+421 903 123 456
Churchil Winston	+421 999 111 111	Truman Harry	+421 903 777 777
Einstein Albert	+421 999 444 444		

You can see a clear advantage of the program. To arrange the list manually in this form would be difficult. The program does it in seconds. Now I add some names with accent marks to the bottom of the list to demonstrate the advantages of the program.

Churchil Winston=+421 999 111 111
Castro Fidel=+421 999 222 222
Aznavour Charles=+421 999 333 333
Einstein Albert=+421 999 444 444
Goodman Benny=+421 999 555 555
Gorkij Maxim=+421 999 666 666
Štofko Branislav= +421 903 123 456

Truman Harry=+421 903 777 777
 Bécaud Gilbert=+421 999 888 888
Černý František=+420 888 111 111
Černý Eduard=+420 888 222 222
Černák Igor=+420 888 333 333
Cibulka Alfons=+420 888 444 444
Čorba Ábel=+420 888 555 555
Čorba Anton=+420 888 666 666

The program added the additional names as follows :

Aznavour Charles	+421 999 333 333	Čorba Ábel	+420 888 555 555
Bécaud Gilbert	+421 999 888 888	Čorba Anton	+420 888 666 666
Castro Fidel	+421 999 222 222	Einstein Albert	+421 999 444 444
Černák Igor	+420 888 333 333	Goodman Benny	+421 999 555 555
Černý Eduard	+420 888 222 222	Gorkij Maxim	+421 999 666 666
Černý František	+420 888 111 111	Štofko Branislav	+421 903 123 456
Churchil Winston	+421 999 111 111	Truman Harry	+421 903 777 777
Cibulka Alfons	+420 888 444 444		

The sorting by name with accent marks is not perfect because Cibulka and Čorba were put into the same group. Thus, sorting proceeded as if the names did not have the accent marks. This is acceptable in Slovak and Czech languages. To me, it is good enough.

5. More columns and font size

As a standard, the produced list is in two columns. However, sometimes you need a non-standard solutions. For example, if the senior had poor eyesight, a larger font could be used. So that you do not have to dig around in the final .html file, after each start the program overwrites and creates another file with **Notepad** in the same directory as the program.

This file must be named **HomePhone0.html** . It is just like my other program Giftab, which can be found on the Internet. In this file, there is one line where you can enter parameters. Program **HomePhone.exe** always reads the file and then accepts parameters.

This line should look like this (all uppercase letters):

<HOMEPHONE COLS=2 FONT=16>

It is set in the program that if you do nothing, not even the file **HomePhone0.html** will be created. Therefore the parameter file was created so that we can do changes. So let s do it.

The number of columns in the contact list is determined by the parameter **COLS** (columns), for which you can use three options

- COLS=1
- COLS=2
- COLS=3

The font size is determined by the parameter **FONT**. You can use the numeric values from 10 to 40. The final form depends on three parameters. The last parameter is an orientation of the paper sheet size A4, specifically portrait or landscape orientation. To make it easy for you, depending on the number of contacts in the list, here is a guideline table :

Landscape orientation for fewer contacts in larger letters :

COL=1 FONT=40 allows 14 contacts
COL=2 FONT=26 allows 2 x 21 contacts 42 together
COL=3 FONT=20 allows 3 x 26 contacts 78 together

Portrait orientation for more contacts in a smaller font :

COL=1 FONT=30 allows 26 contacts
COL=2 FONT=20 allows 2 x 37 contacts 74 together
COL=3 FONT=14 allows 3 x 50 contacts 150 together

6. For experienced users

So far, we have created a simple table. Sometimes it would be nice to be able to add some extra information. You can do this in the file **HomePhone0.html**. There you can define your header and footer even though it would be at the expense of the number of contacts per A4 page.

Footer is a simple in the file **HomePhone0.html** it should look like this :

```
<HOMEPHONE COLS=2 FONT=16>
```

This list is created for your grandmother grandson Martin

And here is the result, simple and effective :

Aznavour Charles	+421 999 333 333	Čorba Ábel	+420 888 555 555
Bécaud Gilbert	+421 999 888 888	Čorba Anton	+420 888 666 666
Castro Fidel	+421 999 222 222	Einstein Albert	+421 999 444 444
Černák Igor	+420 888 333 333	Goodman Benny	+421 999 555 555
Černý Eduard	+420 888 222 222	Gorkij Maxim	+421 999 666 666
Černý František	+420 888 111 111	Štofko Branislav	+421 903 123 456
Churchil Winston	+421 999 111 111	Truman Harry	+421 903 777 777
Cibulka Alfons	+420 888 444 444		

This list is created for your grandmother grandson Martin

The text in the footer can contain any html content. The end marks, e.g. **</body></html>**, will be supplemented by the program. Creating the header works similarly. A tag **<h1></h1>** creates a header with a large font.

```
<h1>Phonebook of my grandmother Anastasia</h1>
<HOMEPHONE COLS=2 FONT=16>
This list was created for my grandmother by grandson Martin
```

And here is the result, simple and effective :

Phonebook of my grandmother Anastasia

Aznavour Charles	+421 999 333 333	Čorba Ábel	+420 888 555 555
Bécaud Gilbert	+421 999 888 888	Čorba Anton	+420 888 666 666
Castro Fidel	+421 999 222 222	Einstein Albert	+421 999 444 444
Černák Igor	+420 888 333 333	Goodman Benny	+421 999 555 555
Černý Eduard	+420 888 222 222	Gorkij Maxim	+421 999 666 666
Černý František	+420 888 111 111	Štofko Branislav	+421 903 123 456
Churchil Winston	+421 999 111 111	Truman Harry	+421 903 777 777
Cibulka Alfons	+420 888 444 444		

This list was created for my grandmother by grandson Martin

I would like to stress once again that such a list will always generate the program effortlessly. Just add new contacts to the file **HomePhone.txt** and double-click the program HomePhone.exe.

7. The date the list was created

Some seniors will appreciate your work so much that they will keep an older version of the list on their phone. So that you know which one is old and that you don't have to do it manually, in the new version the program will do it itself. Edit the **HomePhone0.html** file as follows:

```
<h1>Grandpa s personal phone book</h1>
<HOMEPHONE COLS=2 FONT=16>
This list was created on <date> for his grandfather by his grandson
Martin
```

Instead of the non-standard html **<date>** tag, the current date will be inserted in this place. In our example it will look like this:

This list was created on 18/04/2016 for his grandfather by his grandson Martin.

8. Other uses of the program

The program may process any type of data. I also used it to create a list of TV channels for my senior neighbors. Of course, I had to create another directory. Since the program is relatively small, there is no problem to have it on the same disc multiple times. In the list of TV channels, or anything else that you do not have to use the "=" character as the separator between a channel number and name.

UPC Káblovka - kanály

01. Doma	20. Disney
02. ORF 2	21. ARTE
03. STV1	22. Polska
04. TA3	23. Monde
05. CT1	24. Moskva
06. CT2	25. EuroSport
07. Markiza	26. Blava
08. TV JOJ	27. Paprika
09. JOJ PLUS	28. JimJam
10. ORF 1	29. Duck

Warning: The program sorts the numbers as text, so it is necessary for the channels 1-9 to enter a zero before the number (e.g., channel #1 as 01). To simplify your life, perhaps you can find other ways to use the program.

9. Program limitation

The program can handle a maximum of 1000 contacts. The rest will be ignored. Similarly, the maximum length of a single line of a contact is 80 characters including the "=" sign. The remaining characters in the line will be ignored.

10. Contacts on the SIM card

If your senior also has a cell phone, he may have some contacts there as well. Copying contacts from a mobile phone, for example 30 contacts to the **HomePhone.txt** file, is difficult, and there is also the risk of a typo in the phone number. Now it's about how to get the contacts from the senior's SIM card to your PC.

Contacts from the SIM card can be copied to a file in a smartphone running Android. Download the necessary program, the **vCard Export Import** application, to your smartphone for free from Google Play, here it is in the picture:



Then turn off your smartphone and the senior's older cell phone. Insert the senior card into your smartphone. The application allows more, but we need **Export**.

Export

CLOSE APPLY

Phone Number(s)
 Email
 Postal Address
 Number of times contacted
 Last contact time
 Favorite status

Export Format:
Combined vCard 4.0 file ▼

Save file in:
 External storage of this device
 Share applications (Cloud, Email,...)

Export Format is important here, and because it was unclear to me too, I will explain it again. **Combined** means that there will be several contacts in one file.

I will email the created file to myself. It could also be saved to a file on your smartphone.

Combined vCard 2.1 file

Individual vCard 2.1 file(s)

Combined vCard 4.0 file

Individual vCard 4.0 file(s)

Plain text file

Comma Separated (*.csv) file

Version 4.0 and thus the output format has proven itself, don't downgrade.

When you choose to output to a file on your smartphone, the file is saved to a directory on your smartphone with the correct format and content. Now that the contacts are in the file, it must be transferred to the PC. Don't forget to return the SIM card to the senior :-)

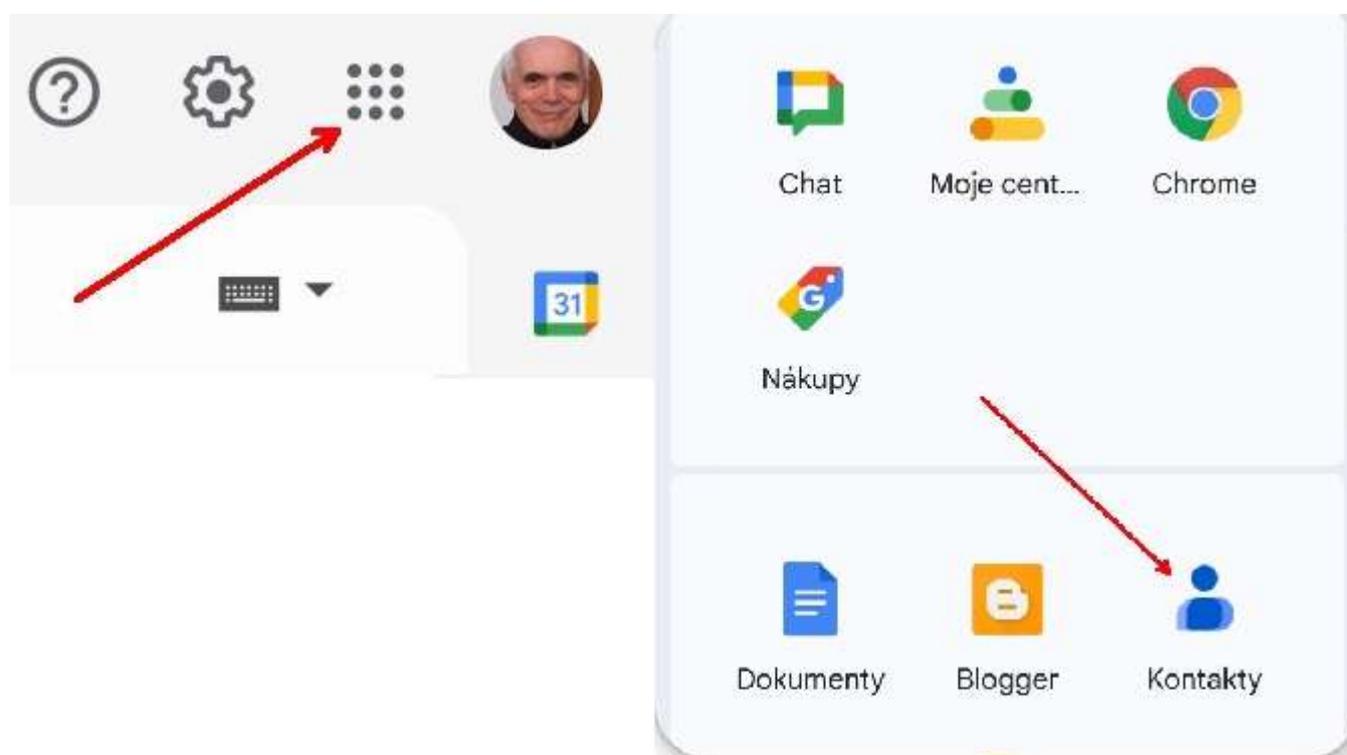
The smartphone can later be connected to a PC with a USB cable and the necessary file copied to where you also have the **HomePhone.exe** program. The **.VCF** file is relatively small, so 80 KB depending on the number of contacts.

11. A modern push-button telephone

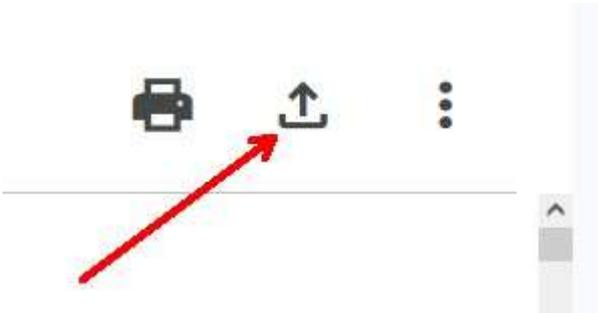
A modern push-button phone for a senior, e.g. brands MyPhone, Aligator and others can "back up" contacts to a **.VCF** file on an inserted SD card.

This greatly simplifies the situation. After connecting such a phone with a USB cable, you have contacts on your computer in a few seconds.

Even if you want to have your contacts from your **Google** account "on paper", the matter is simplified. Google or Gmail allows you to export your contacts to **.VCF** format. Contacts from Google or Gmail is also available on your computer. There, find the dotted icon at the top right, and then the **Contacts** icon



In the list of contacts you will find the necessary icon for **export**.



This was probably programmed by someone from Australia, where the antipodes live. For me, **Download** means Down and **Upload** Up. It's so confusing and even I didn't get it on my first try.

When exporting, choose the VFC format, here named as **vCard** :



In the exported contacts.vcf file there will be contacts with and without diacritics and you do not need to do anything.

The question remains, what is it good for? After printing on paper, you will find that you should edit some contacts on your smartphone. I don't mean the phone number, but the name of the addressee so that it can be sorted for you.

In order to have my Zeman family right from the start on my smartphone, I put a plus sign in front of everyone's last name, so then it looks like this for me:

+Zeman Alfred
+Zeman Zdenek
+Zemanova Alena
+Zemanová Zuzana
Abelovsky Jan
Abelovsky Martin
Bata Jan
Polivka Bolek

12. VCF file

Files with the **.VCF** extension can have different structures. My program does not support all. You can also open such a file with the **Notepad** program and one contact looks like this:

```
BEGIN:VCARD  
VERSION:3.0  
FN:Frantisek Mrkvicka  
N:Mrkvicka Frantisek  
TEL;TYPE=CELL:0918123456  
END:VCARD
```

Well, you certainly won't be rewriting contacts now. The **.zip** package includes the **Vcf2Txt.exe** program that will do it for you. For example, it opens the file **import.vcf** and creates a file **HomePhone.txt** from it. You can also supplement it with contacts from various pieces of paper and the work is done.

So that the **Vcf2Txt.exe** program does not spoil your possible work, set the name to something other than **HomePhone.txt**. Because if the **HomePhone.txt** file has already been created either manually or by a program, it will be overwritten.

Some samples of the **.VCF** file:

MyPhone

```
BEGIN:VCARD  
VERSION:2.1  
N;CHARSET=UTF-8;ENCODING=QUOTED-PRINTABLE:Mrkvicka  
Frantisek;;;  
TEL;CELL:+421919192919  
END:VCARD
```

Aligator

```
BEGIN:VCARD
VERSION:2.1
N;CHARSET=UTF-8;ENCODING=QUOTED-PRINTABLE:Mrkvicka
Frantisek;;;
TEL;CELL:+421919192919
END:VCARD
```

Gmail

```
BEGIN:VCARD
VERSION:3.0
FN:Frantisek Mrkvicka
N:Mrkvicka;Frantisek;;;
TEL;TYPE=CELL:+421919192919
END:VCARD
```

Oops and there s a problem. Gmail marks the line where the name is as **N:** and not as **N;** The **Vcf2Txt** program would not be able to process the file from Gmail.

The **Vcf2Txt** program has no "window" where something could be set, but it accepts the **vcf2txt.ini** file.

If it does not find such a file, it behaves as if it found a **vcf2txt.ini** file with the following content:

```
NAME=N;
PHONE=TEL;
```

For Gmail, create a **vcf2txt.ini** file in **Notepad** and specify where the program should look for the name as follows:

```
NAME=N:
PHONE=TEL;
```

This then allows other specific **.VCF** file formats to be processed as well.

Just define **N:** for the name and for the telephone **TEL;** The **vcf2txt** program looks for a colon next in the line.

Surprise will produce a **.VCF** file from the smartphone. The **.VCF format** has the advantage that the number of items in a contact can be individual.

If you define the code for the name weakly during the conversion, i.e. only the letter **N**, it may happen that you also used a note on your smartphone for a contact that you thought was confidential. But when exporting contacts, the **NOTE** item will also appear for such a contact, i.e. a note.

Although the program first detects the name based on the first letter, for example Brown Ferdinand, but then when it finds the next line that starts with N, **NOTE** sets your note, e.g. Stupid as a name to Brown Ferdinand's phone number and the trouble is over.

In the output file, all semicolon characters are replaced by spaces in the data.

Sometimes it can be useful to limit the number of converted contacts. A mandatory item marked with an asterisk will cause the contact where the data value in this item is empty to be dropped from the output file.

```
Name=N:  
*Phone=TEL  
gmail.vcf  
phonenumbers.txt
```

In this example, the output file **phonenumbers.txt** will contain only contacts where a phone number is defined. Such a case occurs when you have a person in your smartphone contacts for whom you have an email address but no phone number.

In the **.VCF** file, the phone number can be "in raw form", for example +421123456789. German number like +49123456789 .

If he needs to have the phone number in a "readable" form, write this in the file **vcf2txt.ini**

```
#Phone=TEL
```

The result will be +421 123 456 789, or +49 123 456 789

You can define several conditions for one item, that is:

***#Phone=TEL**

Unlike my similar programs, this program does not use the name of the entry with the vcf2txt.ini file. It also works with such file contents

```
Apple=N:  
*Pear=TEL  
gmail.vcf  
list.txt
```

13. Conclusion

As is widely known, despite the advent of computers, smartphones and tablets, paper is the only reliable backup medium. When your senior loses his cell phone somewhere, you can buy a new SIM card and block the old one, but you can't buy the senior's contacts anywhere, not even in Turkey.

The program is a freeware. The author reserves the right to decide where the program will be stored for downloading. If you intend to store the program for downloading on another server, please inform the author.

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